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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ENERGY MINISTERS AGREE TO STRENGTHEN OLADE

Energy Cooperation

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 11 Sep 80 p D-15

[Article by Cayetano Ramirez]

[Text] The Inter-American Energy Cooperation Program proposed by Venezuela to develop the various energy sources of the different countries of the continent, with the aim of reducing their dependence on imported oil, received the full backing of the Latin American ministers meeting in Caracas.

The meeting of the ministers from Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Venezuela opened yesterday morning in the Hilton, to consider the proposal to create a cooperation program that would address as a whole the development of the diverse potential energy sources of countries, whether or not they were members of the OLADE [Latin American Energy Organization] (which has 12 member countries).

The Venezuelan minister of energy and mines, Dr Humberto Calderon Berti, made the opening presentation, citing statistics on reserves, production and consumption of the different types of energy on the continent, with particular emphasis on the situation in the Latin American countries, in which production (1978 figures, which have already varied somewhat) totals 5,928,000 equivalent barrels of oil (meaning all forms of energy expressed in terms of energy value per barrel of oil) daily, and consumption totals 5 million equivalent barrels of oil daily. This leaves a favorable margin of 900,000 barrels a day. This figure, however, does not express reality, in that Mexico, Ecuador and Venezuela export large quantities of oil to North America and outside the hemisphere, so that the net energy balance in Latin America taken as a whole is a deficit.

The proposal submitted by Calderon Berti and outlined to reporters during a recess of the ministers' meeting seeks to combine the efforts of all the countries to carry out explorations for oil, gas, coal, geothermal and

other resources and to set up plans for the development of these potentialities; it would also undertake programs to promote other energy sources such as hydroelectric, geothermal, biomass, wind, sun, etc.

The statistics on energy resources compiled by the United Nations show that in 1978 Latin America had reserves totaling 264 billion equivalent barrels of oil (in the various forms of energy). This potential remains far from having been developed and constitutes the goal of the joint efforts now to be instituted.

The individual countries together would form an organization at the policy (ministers) level, a coordinating body (Inter-American Energy Coordination Group [GICE]), and a secretariat.

Programs would be financed through a special fund centralized in an already existing institution, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, to avoid creating a new bureaucracy, and the supplying of the fund would be shared by the industrialized countries of the continent, the oil exporting countries and the relatively more developed countries. Other contributions could come from sources outside the continent, such as the industrialized countries of Europe and Asia, development agencies and other institutions.

Wisdom of Overall Energy Approach

The Latin American ministers of petroleum and energy who are attending the meeting expressed their agreement yesterday with the effort to approach the energy problem on an overall basis rather than referring it to oil alone. The existence of large potential resources in each of the Latin American countries indicates the wisdom of promoting their development in each case to produce energy of all kinds and free these countries of their dependence on foreign sources in this field.

According to engineer Cesar de Oliveira Cals, Brazilian minister of energy and mines:

"Brazil recognizes that Latin American energy cooperation is highly important. One of the essential points of this cooperation--Minister Oliveira told us during our interview--is to approach all energy resources globally and not each one separately, even if it is as important as oil.

"Brazil also recognizes that the quickest and cheapest approach to dealing with the energy problem is by way of conservation, which is an obligation of each and every one. Brazil also supports the viewpoint that Latin American consumers must be given priority by the continental producers."

Engineer Oliveira Cals said that it is his country's intent to cooperate as fully as possible with the other Latin American countries, as well as with other regions of the world, in promoting the development of the

various forms of energy. In this regard, he indicated that his country is programing and is currently carrying out projects of this nature that will enable it to attain a production level of 1 million equivalent barrels of oil a day within 5 years, as follows: 500,000 barrels of oil; 170,000 barrels of ethanol; 170,000 equivalent barrels of coal; 120,000 equivalent barrels of wood; 25,000 equivalent barrels of bituminous shales; and 15,000 equivalent barrels of energy extracted from biogas, solar, wind and other sources.

Brazil currently produces 170,000 barrels of oil a day and is acutely self-insufficient, having to import 850,000 barrels a day of oil from foreign sources, especially the Middle East. Engineer Oliveira Cals explained that conservation efforts have enabled Brazil to reduce its energy consumption annual growth rate from a level of 7 percent to zero, and thus to reduce its oil imports from 970,000 barrels a day to 850,000 barrels a day this year, saving \$1 billion this year.

The Brazilian minister considers it feasible to put into operation an energy cooperation program that will bring together technical, human and financial resources needed to undertake the required programs in the different countries.

Dr Andres Oteyza, Mexican secretary of patrimony and industrial development, had this to say:

"We view with interest the possibility of approaching energy problems on an overall basis."

The problems to be addressed are many--Dr Oteyza continued--and have their difficulties. He said however that if there is political willingness to address them and efficiency in what is done solutions will be found and success achieved. He added that organizations and mechanisms capable of enabling us to enact any programs on a continental or Latin American level are already in being, such as OLADE, the IDB and others.

"The underlying principle under consideration," he added, "is that of combining human, technical and financial resources to undertake the production of energy in all its forms. But these programs--whatever is done in regard to energy in the various countries--will require resources of different types as well as time, meaning that the training of technical cadres and work along the different lines must all begin now with our sights set on the years 1990-2000, because efforts in the field of energy must always be sustained and of a long-term nature for them to mature and bear fruit."

Mexico has become a top-ranking oil producer, and Minister Oteyza reported that its proved reserves are currently of the order of 60 billion barrels, with a production of 2.3 million barrels a day of which it consumes 1.2 million barrels a day and exports 1.1 million barrels a day.

Minister Avila Mora, Colombian Minister of Mines and Energy, said:

"By addressing the energy question as a whole, solutions and aid can be found for everyone. Cooperation in this regard is possible and desirable."

Minister Avila Mora expressed his support for Minister Calderon Berti's proposal on the creation of an inter-American energy cooperation program.

Colombia, he reported, has a self-sufficiency deficit of some 40,000 barrels a day of oil that it must import; it produces 225,000 barrels a day. Most important is its exploratory effort, which is being carried out primarily by ECOMETROL [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] and through 40 contracts with international companies that are exploring in various inland regions and offshore in the Atlantic. The latter exploration is for gas, deposits of which are already in production.

Concluding Document

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 12 Sep 80 p D-9

[Article by Cayetano Ramirez]

[Text] Diversification of energy supplies and gradual elimination of Latin American dependency for oil were agreed by the eight energy ministers who met in Caracas this week.

At the end of a 2-day meeting, Ministers Oliveira Cals (Brazil), Avila Mora (Colombia), Fernando Altmann (Costa Rica), Andres Oteyza (Mexico), Carlos Zarzruk (Nicaragua), Fernandez Marmol (Santo Domingo), Calderon Berti (Venezuela), and Manuel Mejia Calderon representing Ecuador, resolved to adopt the principle of strengthening the OLADE [Latin American Energy Organization] as the instrumentality of a continental policy with specific aims which they want free of bureaucratic bottlenecks and on an effective footing leading to real solutions and efficient attainments. This idea emerges not only from the communique with which they concluded their work but also from the impressions that were gathered during the proceedings of their meetings and the reports they finally released to the press.

The ministers signed a concluding document to their work and began returning immediately yesterday to their respective countries. All of them found that the meeting had been highly positive and expect it to bear concrete results.

"We can say that the meeting was highly satisfactory," said Fernando Altmann of Costa Rica, "and a document was signed that reflects a new style of action and pragmatism, which are what Latin America needs at this time if it wants to arrive at the solution of the energy problems we now

face and must resolve. The decision to strengthen the OLADE, as had already been agreed at the San Jose, Costa Rica meeting, and as a means of achieving our countries' goals in regard to energy, was also a good one."

The Nicaraguan minister of energy and mines, engineer Carlos Zarruk, said:

"We think it a very positive thing that the Latin American countries have joined in presenting a solid and viable position to the energy problem, a position that would be much weaker if based on individual action by each country separately.

"The decision to approach the energy problem in global form, with the possibilities this provides for developing the specific forms of energy that each country has, is also a very highly advantageous one."

A Five-Point Latin American Energy Policy

The ministers drew up the basic guidelines that will enable an interim organization to draft in a very short time--between now and November when the OLADE meets in Bogota--a Latin American energy policy and the mechanisms for implementing it. These guidelines are given in the concluding document, which says:

Informal Meeting of Latin American Energy Ministers

"Caracas, 10 and 11 September 1980

"By invitation of the Venezuelan minister of energy and mines, Dr Humberto Calderon Berti, an informal meeting of Latin American ministers of energy was held in Caracas, with the participation of: engineer Cesar Cals de Oliveira Filho, Brazilian minister of mines and energy; Dr Humberto Avila Mora, Colombian minister of mines and energy; Dr Fernando Altmann, Costa Rican minister of energy and mines; Dr Jose Andres Oteyza, national secretary of patrimony and industrial development; engineer Carlos Zarruk, Nicaraguan minister of mines and hydrocarbons; Dr Manuel Fernandez Marmol, Dominican secretary of state for industry and commerce; and, representing Ecuador, Dr Manuel Mejia Calderon, counsellor minister of the Ecuadorean Embassy in Venezuela; to consider the Inter-American Cooperation and Coordination Program proposed by Venezuela.

"The ministers studied and discussed the Venezuelan proposal and, as a result of this, agreed to submit for consideration by the ministers of the OLADE at its next meeting the following proposals:

- 1) Strengthen the OLADE.
- 2) Draw up policy lines for OLADE.

- 3) Define a specific program of action for OLADE.
- 4) Draw up a continental energy cooperation program.
- 5) Establish a mechanism for following up the work of OLADE.

"To this effect, they decided to form a working group made up of Venezuela, who will coordinate it, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico, to draft, with the aid of the OLADE permanent secretariat, the working document corresponding to the above-indicated initiatives.

"This document will be submitted to the consideration of the next meeting of OLADE ministers to be held in Colombia toward the end of November. The draft document will be based on the following points of agreement:

I. Strengthening of OLADE.

- 1) Take specific action to bring about the incorporation in OLADE of the Latin American countries that are still not members.
- 2) Consolidation of OLADE as the principal body responsible for energy cooperation and coordination among its member states and with other organizations and countries, and as the organizing body for all actions necessary to achieve those ends.
- 3) Endowment of OLADE with financial and human resources commensurate with the exercise of its functions, as well as an adequate organization.

II. Policy Lines.

With regard to policy lines, the following priority points were identified:

- 1) Development of native energy sources with the object of achieving energy self-sufficiency of the Latin American countries together with a mastery of the corresponding technologies.
- 2) Formulation of national energy policies and plans.
- 3) Diversification of energy supplies, rationalization of energy production, marketing and consumption, with special emphasis on the gradual elimination of dependency with respect to hydrocarbons.
- 4) Increase and rechanneling of the financial resources made available by industrialized countries and international financial organizations, and creation of additional funds for the sufficient and timely financing of the region's energy development. Promote, at the same time, mechanisms to facilitate technology transfers under less restrictive conditions than current ones.

5) Stimulation of trade in energy products among countries of the region, through schemes that provide priorities and guarantee the supply of energy between exporters and importers of the region.

6) Implementation of mechanisms that enable the minimization of energy costs, through rationalization of the processing, transport, storage and distribution of the region's energy resources.

7) Creation of means to facilitate the development of the human and technological resources available in the region.

III. Plan of Action.

The plan of action must provide for the following:

1) Speeding up the establishment of energy balances in Latin America.

2) Latin American energy planning.

3) Training of human resources and transfers of technologies.

4) Evaluation and regional exploration of potential energy resources.

5) Diversification of energy supplies, with emphasis on the following renewable sources:

--hydroelectric

--geothermal

--solar

--biomass

and on nonrenewable sources, especially:

--hydrocarbons

--coal

--nuclear energy.

6) Transfer of technical, legal and administrative information among the member states.

IV. Continental Energy Cooperation Program.

Based on the agreements reached during this informal meeting, draw up a Continental Energy Cooperation Program.

V. Followup Mechanism.

Consider the establishment of a special committee of OLADE ministers to effect systematic followup of policies as well as programs and projects assigned to the Permanent Secretariat.

Signatories:

Engineer Cesar Cala de Oliveira Filho, Brazilian minister of mines and energy; Dr Humberto Avila Mora, Colombian minister of mines and energy; Dr Fernando Alimann, Costa Rican minister of energy and mines; Dr Jose Antonio Olazya, Mexican secretary of patrimony and industrial development; engineer Carlos Zarrok, Nicaraguan minister of mines and hydrocarbons; Dr Manuel Fernandez Marrul, Dominican secretary of state for industry and commerce; Dr Humberto Calderon Berti, Venezuelan minister of energy and mines; and Dr Manuel Mejia Calderon, counsellor minister of the Ecuadorian Embassy in Venezuela."

9238

CSO: 3010

NEED FOR WEST INDIAN UNITED FRONT STRESSED

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 28 Sep 80 p 3

[Editorial: "WI Need a United Front"]

[Text] If anyone is in a position to know that the Caribbean needs to adopt a united stance in attacking its problems, that person is Barbados Minister of External Affairs Henry Forde. And Mr Forde showed last week that he knew the urgency of the need when he spoke to the 20th National Convention of the West Indies Jaycees.

The Minister emphasised that the Caribbean region needed a common front in attacking the problems of foreign private investment and the transfer of technology. He said that there would be a need for a common front through the Caribbean Community (Caricom) in negotiations with the European Economic Community (EEC), Canada, and other trade blocs, and for general politico-economic questions like the creation of political relations with Latin America and the mobilisation of external economic aid and technical assistance.

And he emphasised that the economic integration process required constant and even daily decisions at the national level on domestic economic policies and external actions. The Government could not pay lip service to the idea of Caribbean integration. Its adherence to the dream must be expressed in the reality of constantly, almost daily implementation of concrete measures and action. And in Mr Forde's opinion nowhere was the need to translate dream into reality more clearly seen than in the co-ordination of foreign policy.

Considering the small size of the unit territories of the Caribbean and the limited economic powers they possess, it is easy to see why Mr Forde emphasised once again the need for regional unity. Standing individually, each wields little political clout on the international scene. United they could together command a level of attention that could rapidly transform the world's regard for the region from that of poor islands with their hands always out for aid, to that of a regional entity that could transform hemispheric policy.

The history of unity in the Caribbean area is not rosy. The Federation of the West Indies broke up after a few brief years of squabbling and parochial political manoeuvring. But that had been put together on a political basis and the individual politicians were not sufficiently committed to regionalism to forego the exercise of power on their own home turf.

The longer lasting and more successful regional organisations--CARICOM with all its faults--has survived because political stances are overridden by economic necessity. And it has been repeatedly demonstrated that the Caribbean must develop economically as a region, or the units will stagnate or perish individually.

The international nature of today's international affairs demands that territories with similar interests all over the world present a united front to protect themselves. If this is true on a global basis, where countries and governments on opposite sides of the world unite because their problems are similar, how much more necessary it must be for countries in one region to unite.

The nations of the Third World, into which category the Caribbean region falls, will inevitably depend on fair treatment and assistance from the powerful, rich nations of the developed world. Aid is largely a matter of individual choice or self-interest on the part of the donor. Trading and political links have more of a two-way flow of influence. Unity among small nations can give them a level of political clout that large countries or power blocs cannot ignore.

In the long run, Mr Forde's urging for unity in the Caribbean is in fact a recognition of the route we must take for self-preservation. And the sooner governments in this region accept this fact and act upon it, the more likely many of the outstanding problems will be solved.

CSO: 3020

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ARGENTINE, BRAZILIAN ARMS EXPORT CAPABILITIES EXAMINED

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 3 Oct 80 p 10

[Passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] (AFP) Argentina, Brazil and potentially Mexico--which have the most important arms industries in Latin America--represent an /independent supply/ alternative for other countries of the Third World, according to the "Africa and Middle East Military Yearbook" published yesterday in Paris.

That 320-page document published by the JEUNE AFRIQUE press group to examine in-depth the military power and defense problems of the Third World is the equivalent of the report on military balance published annually by the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London and the "Sipri Yearbook" of the International Institute in Stockholm.

In a lengthy chapter on the arms industries in the Third World, the report devotes an important part to Latin America.

The desire for independence demonstrated by several countries on the continent through arms production programs has been manifested most particularly in Argentina, Brazil and the potential of Mexico, the document reported.

Those countries not only manufacture arms for their armed forces but in the last few years have also begun to export to other nations of the Third World and have become an independent supply alternative.

As an example /of the development attained by the Argentine aeronautical industry--which produces some 20 civilian and military models--the report mentioned the Pucara, an antiguerrilla fighter plane which was recently sold to Bolivia, Mauritius and Mauritania /.

The same success was achieved by the Bandeirantes plane, which is manufactured by Brazil and exported to a dozen countries, including France, the United States and Great Britain.

The Brazilian aviation industry, which also produces 20 models, will be capable of quickly reaching a higher level of production as the transfer of technology agreements signed with the principal Western countries are implemented.

The report adds that /Argentina, which also has an advanced naval industry, in recent years has manufactured a destroyer of the Vickers-42 type, four frigates of the standard class and two German vessels of the 148 type which will be equipped with Gabriel missiles from Israel /.

The Brazilian naval industry which began nearly a half century ago, continues to equip most of the units bought abroad, manufactures light ships and plans to build submarines.

In addition, Brazil manufactures X-20, X-40 missiles and Sonda-2 and Sonda-3 rockets in collaboration with Taiwan, and Cobra antitank rockets in cooperation with Germany.

Finally, Brazil produces various models of the Cascavel tank, the Urutu amphibious transport vehicle, and the EE-17 and EE-3 Jararaca armored cars.

After having sold 20 Jararaca to Qatar in 1976 and 400 Urutu and Cascavel to Libya, it also exported several units to Chad; however, /its most important operation was with Iraq, to which it sold 200 armored cars (EE-9, EE-11, and EE-17) and 2,000 military trucks/.

The Brazilian military industry, which just 6 years ago produced no equipment, exported materiel worth /\$100 million/ in 1978; it is estimated that this year the figure will be /\$1 billion/.

/For its part, Argentina also manufactures armored cars. It is preparing to mass-produce 200 units of the TAM (Argentine Medium Tank)/, in collaboration with the German company Thyssen Henschel and 300 VCTP (Combat Vehicle and Personnel Carrier).

Moreover, its national industry assembled most of the AMX-13 tanks purchased in France.

For its part, in recent years Mexico has begun to produce light arms and ammunition and light planes for civilian use in collaboration with Northrup. It is negotiating with Israel for the purchase of IAI Arava transport planes.

Its shipyards, which produced 15 ships for military use between 1959 and 1963, is now building 15 patrol boats of the Aztec class under a British license. According to the report, Mexico is in a position to quickly have a truck and military vehicles plant through the utilization of the experience and technological capacity of its automobile industry.

However, according to the experts who prepared this study, /Mexico is rejecting the possibility of exporting military equipment because it would affect its international image and would be contrary to the basic principles of its foreign policy/.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

CAUS-EL SALVADOR SOLIDARITY--The Nicaraguan Center for Labor Unity and Action [CAUS] recently announced the creation of the Commission of Solidarity With the Salvadoran People. The Commission is formed by the following organizations: the Communist Party (PC), the Revolutionary Labor Movement (MORE), the Union of Nicaraguan Peasants (UCN), the Labor Center for Social Studies (COES) and the CAUS. The Commission of Solidarity With the Salvadoran People immediately adopted the following work plan: to hold assemblies and motivation meetings in each work center, to mobilize the workers in the districts neighboring the factories and to carry out economic activities through various means. The work plan points out that it will strive to counteract interventionism; to make governments such as ours break relations with the Christian democratic Military Junta; and to fight for the recognition of the Unified Directorate of the Salvadoran Revolution and the Revolutionary Democratic Front as the true representatives of the Salvadoran people. [Text] [Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Aug 80 p 5] 9341

CSO: 3010

NAVAL INDUSTRY SEEN APPROACHING INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 22 Sep 80 p 8

[Editorial: "The Argentine Naval Industry"]

[Text] A country such as ours, with such extensive Atlantic coastlines and such long and deep rivers, provides an excellent environment for the navigational transportation of passengers and cargo. It is therefore essential that we have a shipping industry capable of providing the necessary elements to fulfill this promise.

The adoption of a Naval Plan presupposes strict compliance with its programs, as well as serial production. In this manner, the above-mentioned industry will be able to function on an international scale. Official estimates, as reported to this newspaper by the secretary of state for maritime interests, now include an acceptable level of work, in the large shipyards as well as the small ones. The difficulties perceived in the repair sector, not difficult to overcome, do not change the optimistic view. If the large shipyards for the most part have work orders extending on into next year, the smaller businesses have no problems in their market either; they have now delivered about 6,000 vessels of all types, and have exported yachts to significant markets.

The Argentine shipping industry has not been immune to the dangerous fluctuations of official management of the economy. Short-lived policies and the resulting inconsistencies led to a drop in efficiency. The adoption of the Naval Plan will correct that problem in an orderly fashion so that the shipping industry may expand.

An overview of construction in this sector reveals that there are 148 shipyards in the nation, of which 25 turn out larger ships, 64 are engaged in the serial production of light craft, and 59 are engaged in the single-hull production of light craft. These enterprises employ about 10,000 workers, and of that total, 7,800 work in the heavier construction.

Multipurpose ships such as the "Presidente Castillo" and "Manuel Belgrano," each with a dead-weight tonnage of 14,450, are now working up; the "Ingeniero Huergo" is in the final stages of workup, and is 239 meters long and has a capacity of 60,000 tons, the largest dead-weight tonnage possible in our industry; another multipurpose cargo ship, suitable for grain

and semicontainers, has a capacity of 19,200 tons and is 168 meters long; the missile destroyer "Santisima Trinidad" will be delivered to the navy, and is on the ways; two crude oil tankers 215 meters long and with 58,500-ton capacities, and six MEKO-140 corvettes with missile- and rocket-launching systems, all are under construction at State Shipyards and Naval Factories (AFNE) in Rio Santiago. Argentine River Plate Shipyards, Inc. (ASTARSA), on the Lujan in Tigre, is ready to begin testing navigational equipment and other facilities on the oil tanker "Ingeniero Julio Krause," a 6,000 ton vessel built for Government Oil Deposits (YPF). It is also testing the electronic instruments on the oceanographic ship "Puerto Deseado," which displaces 2,000 tons and was built for the National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT). The grain tanker "Ciudad de San Fernando," 25,780 tons, is in the final registry stages, and work is beginning on the same process for another grain ship of the same tonnage, "Ciudad de Tigre," for the Secretariat of Merchant Marine. In addition, the company is about to sign a contract to build a 15,000-ton oil tanker for a private firm.

The president of the Argentine Naval Industry Federation (FINA), moderately optimistic, claims that this period is the most brilliant in the industry's history, as well as the most prosperous, in terms of the number of vessels produced and in tonnage and variety. His assertion contains a note of caution based on possible risks, already experienced on other occasions, as a result of a lack of continuity.

In conclusion, the progress of the Argentine shipping industry allows us to contemplate the future of this sector with satisfaction. Its priority in our country is undeniable, not just in economic terms.

8926

CSO: 3010

'LA PRENSA' CONDEMNS CASTRO'S DEBASING OF CUBAN REFUGEES

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Sep 80 Sec 2 p 1

[Editorial: "False Image of the Cuban Exiles"]

[Text] From the very first, Latin American and world public opinion was aware that Fidel Castro's offer to grant visas to "all those who want to leave Cuba" was mitigated by certain curious--even suspicious--circumstances that suggested that the Cuban dictator might be playing dirty pool. This unprecedented event in the history of political asylum in Latin America, in which 10,000 Cubans stayed in the gardens and grounds of the Peruvian Embassy in Havana, was undoubtedly a true indication of the degree of discontent that existed in the island population, and of the consequent desire to emigrate. However, accredited diplomats in the Cuban capital were already aware that among the thousands who were clamoring to obtain a safe-conduct out of the country, the Castro regime had included several hundred undesirable and police personnel for the purpose of provoking incidents that would cast doubts on the quality of those who had decided to go into exile.

These provocations took on greater force when the "boatlift" between Havana and Miami began a month later. By the end of the lift, about 10,000 Cubans who had crossed the Caribbean in fragile vessels were admitted to the United States as exiles. Castro took advantage of the situation to launch the most vicious attack, both verbal and physical, against those who left Cuba day after day. At the same time, he opened the prisons to let out not a few felons, who along with drug addicts, thieves, henchmen and spies were lumped falsely with the exiles in the contingents that left the island.

Only a few weeks had passed when the "elements" began to reveal their true nature in the camps where they had been placed. Disciplinary problems, escape attempts, fights, aggression, attacks against the guards and facilities, thefts and rapes reflected a lamentable state of affairs. The perpetrators of these shameful acts were in the minority, but there were enough of them to create an atmosphere of suspicion regarding the behavior of all. Skilled in these matters, the Castro agents achieved great success in the first of their actions in the United States, giving rise to doubts and reservations about the majority of the exiles.

The incidents that took place at McCoy Camp, where 5,000 Cubans are living and where a group of criminals took over the place, reached indescribable excesses.

Meanwhile, another incident took place in Lima, this time for only a short period. This incident revealed the true colors of some of the elements Castro sent out of the country as so-called exiles. A group of more than 150 of them took over a plane for the purpose of going to Miami. They took 15 passengers and the crew hostage. When they refused to let the hostages go, the skyjackers were declared "air pirates" by the government in Lima, and the usual negotiations began immediately. After 24 hours the skyjackers gave up and were taken back to the camp where they were being housed.

These are unfortunate episodes whose spontaneity is doubtful. The events of McCoy Camp and the Lima Airport cannot be divorced from the circumstances that preceded the departure of the Cuban exiles for the United States and Peru. Castro's game has been exposed: it consisted of leading people to believe that the perpetrators of the incidents and those guilty of the most blatant outrages were the exiles, or as Castro says, "those who are fighting against me," those who "wanted to leave Cuba in order to escape the law."

That attempt to distort the facts was not limited to the legal sphere; it also extended to the ideological sphere, with false arguments. The main one is that, according to Castro, "Those who have remained in Cuba, . . . those who work and live there, are with me. They are peaceful, well-mannered people." For that reason, in line with the word from Havana, the Peruvian left has called the Cuban refugees "trash," all of them, without exception, and has asked that they be expelled from the country.

The false picture Castro has tried to paint for the world of the men and women who decided to shake off the oppression of tyranny and leave Cuba, should now be corrected by those--we are referring to the Cuban exiles in the United States, Latin America and Spain--who are able to organize a worldwide campaign to clear up this situation and put things in perspective.

8926

CSO: 3010

SUPREME COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 19 Sep 80 p 10

[Text] The expulsion of students who belong to the religious sect Jehovah's Witnesses, all minors, "is objectively unreasonable, and therefore constitutes an invalid annulment of the right to education of the minors on whose behalf the suit has been filed," ruled the Supreme Court of Justice of the Province of Buenos Aires.

The ruling came in response to a suit filed by some parents, claiming that Resolution 9/78 of the Buenos Aires Ministry of Education is unconstitutional. The court upheld the complaint because the resolution "rigidly requires the expulsion of minor students."

The superior court objects to the first article of the resolution, which refers to the worship of paternal symbols, in that it contradicts Articles 31 and 190 of the provincial constitution.

In his ruling, Dr Emilio P. Gnecco stated that "the regulation of rights can not reach the extreme of distorting or annihilating them," and added that primary or common education has been established in the provincial constitution as a right and an obligation. The same thing is true of the national constitution and the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man, approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, and the American declaration of those rights.

Right to Education

The same minister of the court also indicated that "the obligation to provide elementary education is incumbent upon not only the students and their parents, who are required by the state to provide a certain degree of instruction for their children, but also upon public officials charged with guaranteeing education when necessary, thereby protecting the right of children to obtain education even against the wishes of their parents."

8926

CSO: 3010

ARGENTINA

DISCONTENTED LAOTIANS PRESENT THEIR DEMANDS

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Sep 80 p 7

[Text] The regional representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from Southeast Asia, George Gordon Lennox, reported that he will ask the Argentine Government to study the possibility of providing new employment opportunities for the Laotian families who are living in rural areas and are not satisfied with their present occupations.

Gordon Lennox, in statements made to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, described the situation of Laotians who came to this country under the aid program implemented by the Ministry of the Interior, and claimed that "some of them are having problems now, either in adjusting to the new environment or in the wages they are earning."

The office of the UN High Commissioner in this city received a visit yesterday from 13 families of Laotians (some 50 people) who had left their homes in the agricultural areas of Santa Fe and had traveled to this city to request a transfer to other countries.

Three of the leaders of this group, who spoke acceptable Spanish, stated, "Our children go hungry because we earn barely 350,000 pesos for our agricultural work; moreover, we are not adjusting to this life."

The heads of these Laotian families stated that they want to go to the United States, but for that they need for the Argentine Government to issue them passports, process their visas and help them pay for the trip and their daily needs.

Gordon Lennox spoke with these heads of household, offering them economic assistance to solve their housing, clothing and health problems, as long as they would agree to go back to their homes in Santa Fe.

For now, the local office of the High Commissioner has taken charge of providing for the lodging of these families in a hotel in Zone 11, until an agreement is reached.

Some Laotians said they could get better jobs in this city, because they are trained for technical and electronic jobs, and they know a little of the language now.

Gordon Lennox pointed out that the aid program provided for the Laotians included work with housing, as is now offered in the agricultural areas. He said they would probably not be able to settle here "with the housing problems that exist."

Gordon Lennox was asked if there are problems only with those 13 families, and he said that there are other groups that are not adjusting and that "we are seeking a solution" to their problems.

He reported that two representatives of the United Nations office are on a tour of Misiones, implementing the aid program for a group of Laotians who are working in the harvest of mate and tea.

The representative of the High Commissioner was asked if there is any possibility that the dissatisfied Laotians will leave the country, and he said, "It is very difficult, because countries such as the United States, Canada, France and other European countries will not accept them immediately, since although they do have programs for refugees, they are designed for people who are still in Southeast Asia, not in other countries."

Gordon Lennox concluded by stating that he is maintaining constant contact with Argentine authorities in the hopes of helping the refugees, "as is our duty."

8926
CSO: 3010

BRA HEAD CALLS FOR WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 29 Sep 80 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] Acting Magistrate Mrs Janet Bostwick Saturday urged Bahamian women to fight for seats in Parliament to become part of the most "effective and powerful" decision-making body in the nation.

Mrs Bostwick, the first female president of the Bahamas Bar Association, also challenged women to rehabilitate our society and restore old values.

"I call you to action. Fight inequality, fight immorality, fight the decadence of our society," Mrs Bostwick said during the Business and Professional Women's Association installation banquet at the Nassau Beach Hotel.

She told women: "Fight for a place in the Lower House of our Legislature, for unless we are there, we are really not a part of what ought to be the most effective and powerful decision-making body in our country."

"It is time to get in there and show our men how it ought to be done," she said.

She said that the women have proven themselves to be more responsible than the men, yet still accept the second class citizenship imposed them.

"We have not agitated for the legislative reforms which were recognized as necessary more than two decades ago," she said, adding that matrimonial, inheritance and property laws with regard to women are most antiquated.

She said that each year there is talk of changing them. "They probably will, but have we said what we want?" she queried.

Mrs Bostwick said that young women must be taught that there are far more rewarding careers than attempting to snare a man who will thereafter take care of them.

"We must impress on our young men that truly great men achieve heights and retain them by diligent hard work which far surpasses the toil of the average man," she said.

She said the youth must be convinced it is wrong to prey on others, to benefit from taking advantage of others and that sooner or later we reap just what we sow in life.

"We must show the young that we refuse to honour or hold in esteem those who enrich themselves by crafty or dishonest means and by exploitation of the weak."

She said that for too long Bahamians have been content with orators and that there has been too much talk in our country, most of it by men.

"Talk has become repetitious espousing unrealistic programmes and lofty ideas, but there has been little action," Mrs Bostwick said.

She said that lack of achievement has sometimes been successfully, and at other times not so successfully, covered by a multitude of words.

"It is time for the orators to stop talking so that men and women of action can intervene," she added.

She said that the Bahamas has long relied on its women for stability and that the women are concerned about their homes, families, religion and future.

"More and more women are anxious to improve themselves," Mrs Bostwick said. "Usually they make more use of the education available to them. We are ambitious."

Of mounting concern to every citizen of our country, she said, should be the growing and frightening menace to life, personal safety, property, homes, on the streets, in schools, on the playground, in business places and in the church.

She said that the BPWA should be concerned because one of its objectives is to awaken and encourage a realization of women's responsibilities in the economic, political and social development of the Bahamas and in world affairs.

"But what can we do about it? You say, individually, probably nothing. But together and with the desire, the aspiration to do something about it, you can and you will," she said.

She pointed out that the women's civic pride and contributions to the community are praiseworthy, that they have volunteered for jury duty and are involved in rehabilitation of young girls.

"I invite you to look further ahead. I challenge you to rehabilitate our society," she said, noting that too often rehabilitation has been thought of as only helping persons convicted of criminal offences or those physically handicapped.

"But surely, if crime becomes rampant in a society, if there is little or no denouncement of corruption in highest offices, if there is too much aimlessness among the majority of our youth, if morality is the order of the day, if those who seek not after money and power but after greatness and the preservation of the dignity of man--if they despair; what other signs or symptoms do you need of a sick society which, unless rehabilitated, would become entirely decadent?" she asked.

"I suggest that we must restore old values," she said. "We must again instill self-pride and self-esteem in our people. The old fashioned virtues are still required--and we must restore them.

CSO: 3020

SDP'S SOLOMON SCORES PM'S DRUG TRAFFICKING STAND

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 30 Sep 80 p 1

[Excerpts] The leader of the Official Opposition Social Democratic Party today questioned whether Prime Minister Pindling was serious in his intent to stamp out drug trafficking in the Bahamas.

Mr Norman Solomon said he could not accept the present "laissez-faire attitude" of Government to some of the things going on in the country "if the Prime Minister is really serious about it."

Mr Solomon agreed with the Prime Minister that the job (on drugs) can't be done with available Bahamian equipment. "Of course we need assistance from America if the job is to be done," he said.

But, he said, if Mr Pindling were serious about the statements made in Washington yesterday "then he is one of the most incapable of people."

Mr Solomon said that eight years or so ago the Drug Enforcement Administration in Florida was "actively engaged in work in the Bahamas," but not only were Bahamian authorities not being cooperative, but they were downright obstructive.

"There were people--agents in the field--who told me they found it impossible to work in the Bahamas," he charged. And he said this was confirmed by 'higher-ups' in the DEA. "They couldn't understand the non-cooperation of the Bahamian authorities," said Mr Solomon.

The SDP leader said he raised all this matter publicly at the time but nothing was done about it.

And Mr Solomon said he would like to ask the Prime Minister why Mr Joe Leher of Norman's Cay had not been deported from the country when it was discovered what was going on at that tiny Exuma Cay? "Why was he not deported, but just put on the stop list?" Mr Solomon asked.

He said it was his information that Mr Lehder had been back in the country "often" and he wanted to know if the rumour were true that the Prime Minister, a Cabinet Minister and a government back-bencher had visited Norman's Cay as the guest of Mr Lehder?

"A government back-bencher told me he got the red carpet treatment when he visited," Mr Solomon said.

Mr Solomon said the MIAMI HERALD had published the record of Mr Lehder and government could hardly plead innocence that they had no idea of his background.

"Further, I would also like to ask the Prime Minister about Mr Frank Brady at Hawkanest, Cat Island," who, he said, was recently picked up on a drugs charge in the West Palm Beach area and had to post \$250,000 bail.

"Why is he only on the stop list? Why wasn't he deported from the country?" asked Mr Solomon.

Mr Solomon wanted to know why the government was "just messing about" with Mr Lehder and Mr Brady and had not closed down their operations and thrown them out of the country.

"How can we believe the Prime Minister in his 'serious intent to stamp out this (drugs) when this is allowed to go on," said Mr Solomon.

Further, he said it was totally wrong to ascribe all the drug traffic to American gangsters. "What about the pushers on Bay Street?" he asked. Surely, he said, the police could do something about that! "But, no, they still harass the tourists and give us a bad name, and letters get written to the press and to travel magazines both here and abroad."

"No, I just don't believe the Prime Minister is serious about it. There's too much of a laissez-faire attitude about the whole damn thing," he said.

Mr Ed Moxey, speaking as Administrative Officer of the People's National Council, said the remarks by the Prime Minister over the "Today" show would likely result in further damage to our already damaged Bahamian economy.

"By implication the PM has confirmed all that the US Congressman (Harry Yourell) had to say. But whereas the Congressman's revelation may have reached a few thousand, the PM's utterances have reached millions," he said today.

And he said "If what the Prime Minister said is correct, then the official opposition in Parliament should immediately request an emergency

session of Parliament to deal with this very damaging revelation (that American gangsters are invading the country)."

Mr Moxey said the Prime Minister owes it to his colleagues, to the opposition and to the people of this country to explain exactly what is happening.

CSO: 5300

MORE ISRAELI AGRICULTURAL AID MAY BE FORTHCOMING

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 29 Sep 80 p 1

[Text]

Barbados might get more technical assistance from Israel in the area of agriculture.

Israel's Ambassador to Barbados, Mr. Moshe Melamed said that he had discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture with the possibility of giving technical assistance.

The diplomat who was due to leave Barbados yesterday after a one-week visit, said that there was increasing scope of Israeli technical assistance for Barbados.

He also had discussions with the Minister of External Affairs, Mr. Henry Forde and other officials of that Ministry.

According to Mr. Melamid who was on one of his periodic visits to Barbados, the discussions centred around the political development in the Middle East and in the Caribbean.

Mr. Melamed who has been the ambassador for the past two years, said that he observed a very big progress in Barbados in the field of economic social development and the increase in tourism.

The diplomat said that it is hoped to hold on-the-spot courses in Barbados by Israeli lectures, in fields indicated by the local authorities.

Barbados has already benefitted from overseas courses in Israel in the areas of agriculture and community development.

Mr. Melamid also has responsibility for Jamaica, Dominica and Grenada.

From Barbados, he was expected to visit Dominica to discuss possible training in areas as pointed out by that country. He has already visited Jamaica.

CSO: 3020

INTERIOR MINISTER'S ROLE IN COCAINE TRADE NOTED

PY161745 Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 8 Oct 80 p 72

[Exclusive report by Luiz Claudio Cunha, from La Paz]

[Text] During the first week in July of this year, a twin-engined Piper Aztec exploded over a populated area located 15 kilometers from La Paz. The plane's three occupants were killed. The Bolivian police found several grips containing \$2 million in \$50 and \$100 bills. Intrigued, the police were examining the baggage, when a helicopter landed in the midst of the parts of the destroyed plane and the owner of the air taxi firm to which the Piper belonged descended: It was Col Luis Arce Gomez, at that time chief of the army's intelligence service (SIE). With harsh gestures Arce tore up the report drafted by the police and ordered them to return to La Paz and maintain absolute secrecy regarding this incident.

In this year alone, three of Arce's planes have been destroyed in accidents that have never been cleared up. In Bolivia, the deals of the colonel, who has been interior minister since Gen Luis Garcia Meza became president, are not within the reach of police investigations. "The madman" [El Loco], as his comrades in arms call him, or "Arcesino" [play on his name and the Spanish word for murderer] to his innumerable enemies, Col Luis Arce Gomez, 42, is a veteran regarding contraventions. During the government of Rene Barrientos, when he was a captain, he got involved in the smuggling of leather (couro) and cigarettes to Paraguay. While climbing the ladder of honors, he was also climbing the ladder in clandestine traffic. Today Arce is the brain of the militarymen who are involved in the billion-dollar traffic of cocaine.

Arce's paramour, Rosario Poggi de Quesada, an attractive 37-year-old brunette, who during the 70's was one of the couriers between Spain and Bolivia, is officially the general secretary of the Interior Ministry, but unofficially she occupies the second place in the colonel's clandestine empire. Norberto "Bubby" Salomon, an air force colonel and Arce's partner in air transport enterprises, is also accumulating posts in the government and in the illegal organization while he is subordinated to the Interior Ministry. After the victorious

coup headed by Garcia Meza, Bubby Salomon was rewarded with the post of military attache in Caracas. A plane belonging to Salomon crashed in May in an airport in Beni Department with 320 kilograms of cocaine on board.

The salary of a colonel in Bolivia is \$800, and yet Salomon is the owner of three ranches and three houses in La Paz, which he rents out. Like the majority of the uniformed stars who trade in drugs, Salomon has served in Santa Cruz de La Sierra, the center of cocaine traffic in Bolivian territory. Rebellious generals leave Santa Cruz heading for La Paz, and cocaine paste leaves it headed for the rest of the world.

In a meeting last June with the Santa Cruz cocaine magnates, Gen Hugo Echeverria, commander of II Corps, which is based in the city, received a donation of \$2.7 million so that he could overthrow the government and scare away the specter of repression against trafficking. Echeverria promised Garcia Meza that he and a group of friends, "my friends from Montero," according to the general, would in some way or another collect the necessary \$3 billion in order to pay off the foreign debt. Montero, 45 kilometers from Santa Cruz, is virtually the top free cocaine zone in Bolivian territory.

Outside of Bolivia, Arce's friends are always exposed to sudden shocks. Alfredo "Cutuchi" Gutierrez, the owner of a landing strip located at Kilometer 7 of the Santa Cruz-Cochabamba highway, which is encircled by high walls and is equipped with searchlights that are perfect for landing at night, was arrested in Miami during May 1979 while in charge of a plane that was full of cocaine. He stayed no longer than 24 hours in jail, but this incident alerted Arce about the special care that must be taken regarding Miami, the main door through which drugs enter the United States.

Bolivia currently maintains six consuls in Miami, one of whom is Arce's father. All of them were picked personally by the interior minister, who is afraid of diplomatic slipups, but he seems to be convinced that he is not exposed to eventual economic reprisals from the U.S. Government.

During a party held recently by friends in La Paz, Arce, quite boldly summed up the points on which he bases his confidence. "Tin represents \$400 million a year, but cocaine gives us \$1.2 billion," the minister explained. "If the Americans suspend their aid, I do not make myself responsible for the swamping of the United States with cocaine."

CSO: 5300

COSTA RICA

FORMER PRESIDENT FIGUERES DISCUSSES NATIONAL LIBERATION PARTY, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 24, 26 Sep 80

[Interview with former Costa Rican President Jose Figueres Ferrer, by Wilmer Murillo in the column "Political Wednesdays in the Republic"; date and place not given]

[24 Sep 80, p 9]

[Text] I. One Must Decide Whether To Be Poor or Rich

Jose Figueres Ferrer (Don Pepe), regarded by many as an old man exhausted by power, continues to cause trouble in Costa Rica. Many say that he has no influence in his party, but he shrugs his shoulders and says, "I am too old to think of parties. I think of the country."

Don Pepe, as both his supporters and his opponents call him, is after all independent of spirit. He often says he came into politics unintentionally, and he has three times been president of Costa Rica.

At 86, Figueres devotes the greater part of his time to the study of the problems of the country, but his greatest desire is to devote himself to writing. In this exclusive interview, Jose Figueres explains to the readers of LA REPUBLICA many of his points of view. He says that Costa Ricans must decide now if they want to continue to enjoy the advantages of civilization or return to Franciscan poverty. The former choice will require that we undertake great enterprises and the latter that we give up much. The following is the first part of the interview.

[Question] Recently the country has seen Jose Figueres complaining of the seriousness of the economic and social situation because it afflicts the whole country. But tell me, what are the solutions Jose Figueres offers the country to help it retreat from the precipice and pursue a democratic plan?

[Answer] First of all, there are no easy nor speedy solutions. Secondly, one must ask what kind of country we want. We must decide if we want to continue to advance along the current path of material wealth or if we want the country to return to Franciscan poverty. If we want all of the conveniences which civilization is bringing us we have no alternative but to deal with the industrial countries. Not necessarily solely with the industrial countries of the West, but with all the industrial countries. But here there is a terrible opposition to

large investments and large businesses. The people are accustomed to believing that we can produce abundantly with crumbs--with a little agriculture here and a little there. The country needs great investments of capital, three or four large enterprises without which no foreign investments can be developed.

[Question] What enterprises would you cite?

[Answer] For example, the exploitation of aluminum. We are paying with the consequences of the agitation created with regard to Alcoa. Today we would be a rich country if we had not committed the error of causing that contract to collapse. Now there are a number of possibilities for exploiting aluminum, which is very big business, and might bring in large investments rapidly. Another example. We have four gold mines, with veins which were not very profitable when the cost of gold was \$28 an ounce. Today it would pay to exploit them to help the country speedily with the balance of payments and its enrichment in general. One can see that when there is talk of this opposition arises and the parades in the streets begin.

A pipeline should be built to carry oil from the Pacific to the Atlantic. But the emotional opposition to these projects is tremendous. They have to do with the violation of sovereignty, the possibility that the pipes will break and the crustaceans will be destroyed. Well. We have the possibility of exploiting copper. All of these require great expenditures for research and investments in the exploitation of these resources which a country of 2 million inhabitants cannot undertake. If we do not want to deal with the industrial countries, then let us say once and for all that we want to be poor and return to going barefoot. But the contradictions I see are enormous. We have what is a great and very expensive spiritual luxury--an expenditure on universities of about 1,100,000,000 a year. Increasing numbers of people want to go to the university. And how can we pay for this? I recently told a group of university students marching in the streets that if they do not want large investments, let them leave the universities, abandon their shoes and return to the fields. Because we cannot have both. It is like the girls who want to get married but who do not want to date men. I think it is possible to undertake great programs for national enrichment despite the blow oil has dealt us. But we must lose our fear of big business, and abandon the superstition that we Costa Ricans are not capable of negotiating advantageously for the country. In the farm sector, 100,000 hectares should be planted to trees speedily, because the natural forests are being exhausted. All of this requires the introduction of capital and technology, but above all value. In the case of sugarcane the technology is very simple. There is great knowledge in the sugar mills of the country. Many of the mills can even be built in this country. It would be a blessing from heaven if this were done. But again we come up against the fact that the owners of the mills are exploiters, and the country would not benefit. I do not understand. If these contradictions are not clarified, no one can commit himself to rescue the country from the pit into which it is sinking every day.

[Question] What in your view are the elements making Costa Rican society sick and feeding the conflicts contributing to its breakdown and disappearance?

[Answer] The same elements as contributed to the social development in the past 30 or 40 years, and which are responsible for the fact that we are less badly off than the rest of Central America. There has been a series of forces here which working together have proven wholesome. First the movement of the nationalists

and reformists which culminated in the party of General Volio. Then the Calderon communist movement which began social reform. Then came the PLN [National Liberation Party], which for 30 years has been transforming Costa Rican society on the basis of consuming everything and more of it. These forces had a net positive balance. Now that we have reached the very edge of the blanket, as the saying goes, the effect is negative. We are experiencing the reverse of the crisis of the 1930s, when consumption reached a low. All of these renewing forces in society have been added together in the belief that the economy has no limits, and that a strike will suffice for wealth to emerge. What is emerging now is the paper which makes prices go up.

[Question] You have often been seen with President Carazo. Do you support his style of government?

[Answer] My thesis is that it is the only government the country has, the struggle is very hard and whether one agrees with the government or the president or not it is necessary to support them in this crisis. For example, with regard to the loans. I can tell you this is not the first government opposed to the PLN I have supported. I aided the Trejos administration considerably. As time passes I realize that the feelings called democratic opposition go to the extreme of blocking progress. This is a derangement of democracy.

[Question] Since you are constantly engaged in exhortations to national dialog and civic struggles to rescue the country from extremism, does this mean that you have lost influence in your party?

[Answer] I do not know, nor do I care. I am too old to think of parties. I am thinking of the country. If I lose influence or gain it, it will depend in large part on the wise approach to certain problems, and the luck I have in getting people to want to study them. I find that many people listen to me and often correct me. Often I am wrong, above all in economic matters, which are so difficult. But in general, many people still listen to me.

[Question] You have been accused of having launched a style of government of an imperial sort, of pursuing an all-concealing autocracy in politics. Do you believe this is a proper observation?

[Answer] It is difficult for one to know if criticisms of him are correct. Probably many people have said this in good faith.

[Question] Do you believe that the PLN has a mandate to win the coming elections?

[Answer] Well, it is a party, whose mission is presumably to govern. It also has a mandate to analyze the situation and prepare to assume power. Winning elections can mean nothing if there is no study of solutions or search for new paths. You have used the word mandate. There is one, but it is the mandate to know, for whoever wants to govern.

[Question] Do you believe that there is a split in the government ranks, and that this might possibly be a factor the PLN should be ready to exploit?

[Answer] Yes. I believe that there are a number of trends and possible candidates going to a convention following the roots established by the PLN, more or less. I believe that we continue to lead the nation as a party, and I am happy that our opponents are following this line and having an educational convention which will have a good effect on political education. This will produce a candidate. Would that he might be a good and responsible one. If he wins let him serve, and if he does not, let him not be a hindrance.

[Question] Various groups have been organized in the country which claim that this is being done to save democracy. Do you believe that this is a hypocritical action or one worthy of applause? Is democracy really threatened by foreign-inspired extremism?

[Answer] Well, yes. I would say that democracy is somewhat in crisis. Those who claim to be of the left and those who claim to be of the right are attacking it. It also depends on what is meant by democracy. It is frequently confused with the juridical system. We have a highly sophisticated one. But the fact is that we are too civilized in this country. There must be some of everything in these groups, people acting in good faith, and people working to the detriment of democracy. All extremist actions are steps backward in the juridical society to which we Costa Ricans aspire.

[Question] The communists often make distinctions in the old scholastic manner, between freedoms--that to die of hunger and that to exploit the people. Do you believe that freedom is something simple, unqualified? Do you think that this style applied by communism involves dangers for our country?

[Answer] In my view one extreme is as bad as the other. Unfortunately, the word communism is used today for everything. I would favor talk of the communists with a certain respect for a way of thinking, an economic and political system. Often the term is used in a way which proves offensive. I believe that among those who regard themselves as communists there is a wide range, from responsible people, intellectuals or idealists, to opportunists, just as there are in other trends of thinking. Above all, there is much dogma. Things are seen as each one wants in accordance with this or that document.

[Question] You have mentioned the Russians here. Do you believe they are working to put an end to our democracy?

[Answer] They are very busy in Afghanistan and with other things. Here we have expelled two Russian embassy employees who had been in Moscow 2 months before. There was a strike in Limon and they were blamed for the whole hullabaloo. It is ridiculous. The Soviet Union has a serious and capable government which does not commit idiocies. However some members of the Cuban government are still thinking of liberating these countries in their fashion. In my view this is a danger.

[Question] I have heard it said that this business of models of development is nothing but words. How do you conceive of a realistic attitude for dealing with problems? Do you believe that there are Costa Rican formulae which can produce a developmental explosion?

[Answer] This business of models is vast nonsense. One talks of models to conceal ignorance. It seems to me that there is enough practical sense in the country to seek a solution to the problems. This business of adapting to models is proceeding from one dogma to another. In addition, it is a constant contradiction. Under the present government there have been demonstrations urging adoption of a liberal model. And the same page which reports this announces that the minister of economy has fixed the price for onions. Everything which mixes into doctrinary affairs is contradictory, because life is stronger than doctrine.

[26 Sep 80, p 5]

[Text] It Is Dangerous To Believe That the PLN Has Victory Assured

In its Wednesday, 24 September issue, LA REPUBLICA provided its readers with a verbatim account of some of the views of former President of the Republic Don Jose Figueres, obtained in an exclusive interview on various national problems. In this second and final portion of the interview, the former president speaks of his dissatisfaction with the way in which his party has engaged in the opposition, and the style of the government in handling its relations with the legislative assembly.

It is often said that there is currently a growing trend toward loss of confidence and certainty. This creates fertile ground for the ever-present forces of division, ready to exploit those who are uncertain and to stir up those who are disturbed.

Despite everything, Don Pepe expresses the view that there is still, fortunately, a great deal of pragmatism in Costa Rica for seeking solutions to the political and social dilemmas. "I believe that after all there is some degree of consensus. Otherwise things would already have exploded."

Among other things, he says that "we must change our attitude, think more and try to become a more alert and informed nation."

The following are the main aspects of the interview.

[Question] Are you satisfied with the opposition being provided by the parliamentary faction of the National Liberation Party, and the party in general?

[Answer] No, sir. Neither has the government handled relations with the parliament well, nor has the faction focused on the country, above the party and petty desires.

[Question] Would you say that after what many have called the disaster of the Carazo administration, the PLN now has its triumph in the coming elections assured?

[Answer] That may be, but there is nothing more dangerous than finding victory easy. In the great real battles in history, the victory cry has often been the signal for rout, with everything ending in defeat.

[Question] Do you believe that despite the economic and social tension, we are advancing toward calm elections?

[Answer] It is not a matter of belief, but it is what I desire. With these strike movements and the battle between the assembly and the executive branch we are going into the elections in a turbulent atmosphere. The day payment of government employees is suspended, the day because of a banana strike, the company tells us that's enough--what will happen?

[Question] Don't you believe in the ability of the Costa Ricans to take charge of the banana plantations?

[Answer] Indeed there is much greater ability than 30 years ago, because there are more people and they are better trained. But when someone takes charge, this does not mean that everything goes smoothly. While things are being reorganized, there are some difficult years. And I think that this business of the company leaving may happen. We are tweaking the tail of the animal excessively.

[Question] Many place emphasis on the need for national dialog. In your view is there a dogma of self-sufficiency in the executive branch, as opposed to what could be a normal process of discussion with all groups, its own and its opponents, on resolution of the problems affecting the country?

[Answer] I have always supported every effort at understanding and discussion, but I understand how difficult it is. They are all full of prejudice.

[Question] Would you say then that the country is faced with an insoluble problem, deriving from the difficulty of making up groups with sufficient authority to deal with the crisis?

[Answer] What is an insoluble problem? When a patient has cancer he must resign himself to death. But a country cannot die. There must be solutions, not insoluble situations. You do not believe that the country will cease to exist tomorrow, nor do I.

[Question] Is the problem then a lack of competence?

[Answer] It is perfectly normal to have differences of opinion among human beings, above all in a democracy. I am not alarmed. We will see what direction the next government will take. I recall the crisis of the '30s. It was much more serious than that we have had to date. However, we survived. Here we are alive and kicking. Every day has its problems and its solutions. It is good for the people to suffer a little, above all those who oppose big business. If the Alcoa contract had been signed we would be in another world. But I believe that even the current president marched with the students to oppose it. Now he must be sorry.

[Question] Speaking of big business, Vice President Alfaro said that he was morally certain that there was oil in Costa Rica. Do you believe that there is oil here?

[Answer] I do not know what the relation between morality and geology is, but he certainly meant he had a presentiment. This is something about which I know a great deal. There is oil where there is oil, of that I am certain. Even expert geologists think so. It is very certain that there is oil in Venezuela.

[Question] Do you believe that the relaxation of the acute antagonisms existing today between the different blocs of mankind has been effectively achieved, or has the world been dangerously plunged into a new version of the cold war?

[Answer] There is nothing new in this. Just a mere 2000 years ago we had a great struggle between Rome and Carthage, culminating in the total destruction of the latter. In Europe we have had struggles between France and England, England and Spain. A number against Germany and Germany against a number of other countries. It has all culminated now in the division of power between two great superpowers baring their teeth at each other. In reality, this is an instinctive, biological matter. Each side disguises it with ideology. Some are fighting for social justice and others for freedom and democracy. This is the sad reality.

[Question] Do you believe that the revolutionary movements in Latin America have advanced or retreated? Where do you see the points of greatest tension?

[Answer] The word revolution has been worn out. There is even talk of revolutionary luncheons. These are nothing but absurdities. Because the ideals of the era were abandoned for half a century in Central America, there is a focus of great tension. Central American society, outside of Costa Rica, is in the hands of dictatorships. They have subjugated these peoples by the force of arms and they keep them in that situation. I see the danger of a massacre in Guatemala and El Salvador. In Latin America, the peasant population blocs of pre-Columbian origin are large. They still feel like conquered people. Here we do not have this.

[Question] What do you believe are the most urgent problems in Central America? How will they affect us?

[Answer] A period of a quarter or half a century of great suffering seems inevitable to me. The problems have been allowed to accumulate, just as those pertaining to oil were neglected. Guatemala and El Salvador have not developed at all. Nicaragua was under a dynasty for almost half a century. When evils are allowed to accumulate it is like the pressure in a boiler. Either the pressures are vented or it blows up. One can only put up an umbrella and pray to God that the consequences will be as minimal as possible.

[Question] Do you believe that communism is incompatible with freedom?

[Answer] It is a question of definition. If we replace the word communism with socialism, meaning a society in which the economy is state controlled, centralized and planned, it seems to me that the Scandinavian countries, England itself, and the countries of Western Europe have a high level of socialization with a high degree of freedom. Yes, they are compatible. What happens is that a handful of agitators in this country have their minds filled with dogma. But I believe that socialism and freedom are perfectly compatible, just as Christianity and modern political systems are.

[Question] Do you believe that the "gnashing of teeth" began with President Carazo's government, or that the crisis already existed and developed during the administrations you headed?

[Answer] Both. During the PLN administrations we accumulated problems. We let the people believe that it was possible to continue to improve indefinitely. Generally, a single 4-year government cannot do either much evil or much good. Probably this one, made up of people who have spent many years in the opposition, without government responsibility, has precipitated many evils. But I do not believe it invented new ones. They were already on the way. And I will tell you something else. It is September now, and I remember that after 2 years, in the governments which it fell to me to head, there were more tensions than now. Opposition to the government was generalized. Time will be needed to judge Carazo.

[Question] You have been president of Costa Rica three times. Would you like to be again?

[Answer] I understand how hypothetical the question is, not only because of the constitution, but due to my age. My dream would be to be able to devote myself to writing, but it is difficult for me. Many people, I do not know why, seek me out. My office is like a public place. In addition to domestic affairs, I have to deal with international problems. My office resembles a Cuban or Nicaraguan consulate. People from various countries pass through. I have been too busy to write and I have this ambition. I think I should put down certain things in writing.

[Question] Of the politicians aspiring to the presidency, which do you see as most capable of drafting a new, imaginative plan equal to resolving the economic and social crisis the country is experiencing?

[Answer] It seems to me it would be unwise to venture an opinion, either for the PLN or its opposition, but least of all in this coalition.

[Question] Do you believe that if the PLN wins in the 1982 elections it will have an obligation to seek a combination of forces in the country in order to carry out the needed structural reforms?

[Answer] I do not know what this business of structural reforms is about. These are words. The obligation of the PLN, if it wins, is to seek a pragmatic solution to the problems based on a long-term orientation, which will doubtless be democratic or perhaps social democratic. But this thing about structures annoys me, just as the business of the ECLA [Economic Commission for Latin America] and liberal models does. It is a way of saying one does not know. Of making an impression so others will believe one is wise. In Costa Rica, as everywhere else, what is most common is people who do not think, who have no solutions and who criticize a great deal. This is the most common thing, but we have no monopoly on it. What we must do is change our attitude, think more and seek to be a more alert and informed nation. The rest is abstract phrases designed to conceal ignorance.

[Question] Luis Alberto Monge said that he would back a great social pact to safeguard peace and democracy. What do you think about this?

[Answer] Carazo has also talked a great deal about this social pact. Perhaps it is thanks partly to this that the level of bellicosity is not greater. It is good to reiterate many ideals even if they cannot be achieved. Moreover, don't you

believe that there is some degree of consensus? Otherwise things would already have exploded. You must realize that even in the strikes, the discussion was focused in the end on a juridical question. All of this presupposes a national consensus to the effect that we must live within the legal system. This is rather good in Costa Rica, despite everything.

[Question] Many believe that Monge presents the image of a defeated candidate and that this will affect the electorate. They say that the Orlich and Oduber situation will not be repeated. What reason would you give to the contrary?

[Answer] I do not understand this business of image. It is a foreign concept. Each individual is what he is. He projects one image to some and another to others. Monge was elected by democratic and proper methods. He should be supported as a candidate and as president if he wins.

[Question] It is said that Monge is in command in the PLN now. What role does he play in the liberation movement then, Jose Figueres?

[Answer] It seems to me that he should command in the PLN. He is the candidate and tomorrow I hope he will be the president. The others may be workers, ideologists, economists, what you will. May the Lord preserve us from central authority invested in the candidate.

Author's Note: Former President Jose Figueres had his 74th birthday yesterday. Due to a regrettable error, 12 years were added to his age in a statement published in the Wednesday portion of the interview. We offer our apologies to Don Pepe.

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CSO: 3010

ACOSTA NOTES IMPORTANT WORK DONE BY CDR

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 8 Sep 80 p 2

[Interview with Armando Acosta, National CDR Coordinator by Jesus Orta Ruiz: "The Committees for the Defense of the Revolution Emerged From Fidel's Trust in the People"]

[Text] The Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR) are reaching their 20th anniversary with the same fighting spirit as on the historic occasion that marked their birth.

Counting their daily labor during these 20 years is a true epic. They were started as people's rearguard troops. They went on achieving such a degree of organization, such mobilizing capacity, that they have added to their basic task (revolutionary vigilance) numerous activities to support the economy, education, public health, institutionalization of the country and others.

On the eve of the CDR's 20th anniversary, an interview with Comrade Armando Acosta, member of the Central Committee of the party and national coordinator of the CDR's, is inevitable.

[Question] Comrade Armando Acosta, in your capacity as national coordinator of the CDR's, what aspect do you consider most important in the 20 years of existence of such a powerful organization of the masses?

[Answer] The 28th of this month will be exactly 20 years since that night on which our commander in chief called on the people to organize themselves into a system of revolutionary collective vigilance so that each block would be transformed into a solid and indestructible trench of the revolution. Since then many have been the battles and innumerable the struggles that the CDR members have carried out to defend the revolutionary process. But one thing becomes outstandingly evident: the deep trust of Fidel in the masses and the deep trust of the masses in Fidel.

I repeat, the CDR's arose from Fidel's faith in the people, a development that did not appear that day, but rather that was growing and becoming strong since the preparation of the attack on the Moncada barracks, where the full and total conviction is still demonstrated that the people longed for a true and final revolution, that the people could always be counted on in the certainty that they would answer: Present. Let us remember that in "History Will Absolve Me," Fidel states: "To this people whose anguished path is paved with deceptions and false promises, we were not going to say, 'We will give to you,' but rather, 'Here you are, fight now with all your strength so that freedom and happiness will be yours.'"

[Question] We know, Comrade Armando, that during these 20 years the committees have performed important tasks in various fields of social action. Has the plurality of fronts erased the basic character of the organization?

[Answer] In no way. The CDR's basic task continues to be the same: defense of the fatherland, constant surveillance of the enemy, always keeping our guard up. These 20 years are the best evidence of how the CDR members--counterpart of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Ministry of the Interior--have known how to fight against the criminal schemes of imperialism and its foreign and domestic agents, uselessly committed to destroying the revolution, killing its leaders and disturbing the safety and tranquillity of our working people. From the struggle of the rearguard when Playa Giron was attacked and in the October Crisis, to the vanguard action of the March of Fighting People, our organization has not let up in the daily battle against its enemies. That defense continues to be our basic task is specifically expressed in the motto of our 20th anniversary celebration: "As in the mountains, as in Giron, as in war, without respite..."

[Question] However, we can say that the CDRs are accomplishing many tasks. Is that not true?

[Answer] In 1961, when our organization had completed its first year, Fidel was pointing out the extensive possibilities for it. "The CDRs," he said, "are bodies of the revolution; they are bodies of revolutionary power. Besides revolutionary tasks, as a revolutionary organization of the masses, you are called upon to fulfill various necessary and indispensable tasks for the revolution, that you must carry out with a great sense of responsibility, with a great sense of sacrifice." And he was correct. Our own structure, the arrangement of our organization, is the chief factor allowing the CDRs to be transformed into an effective mechanism for the participation of our organized people, from their own neighborhoods, to support economic, educational, cultural and social development in our country. The action of the CDR's has been outstanding in voluntary work, in the

recovery of raw materials, in the movement of Model Fathers in Education, in the antipolio vaccine campaign, in blood donations and in bringing to each and every member of our organization the laws and principles that govern our society. Our organization is a powerful mobilizing tool, capable of taking on and fulfilling any task that the revolution entrusts to it, rapidly and enthusiastically. The CDRs have effectively contributed to the process of institutionalization of the country. From the early years they have offered solutions to various and important administrative tasks, at a time when the state did not have suitable mechanisms. The CDRs have contributed to establishing bodies of people's government.

[Question] What special meaning does the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the CDR's have?

[Answer] This 20th anniversary does have a special meaning, not only because of the number of years and the work achieved in this time, but because we are celebrating it in the year of the Second Party Congress. It is also significant that during this period we will hold the Second CDR Congress. For all these reasons, we propose to make our 20th anniversary the most enthusiastic, massive, fighting and patriotic celebration in the history of the CDRs. Every CDR member, as a symbol of the guerrilla spirit of our people, will wear a red beret, and the tricolor joy of our flag will appear everywhere, the purest emblem of our sovereignty, so stubbornly threatened by North American imperialism, the usurper of a piece of our territory--where the Yankee naval base is installed at Guantanamo Bay.

[Question] What objectives are the CDRs establishing to achieve the highest quality in the activities saluting the 20th anniversary?

[Answer] The main incentive toward this end is the massive and reliable CDR participation in our Second Special Emulation Party Congress and in the tasks that we have pledged ourselves to fulfill in saluting the extremely important meeting of the Cuban communists. Recently we delivered our commitments to the first secretary of the party Central Committee, and this document is a powerful spur for the CDR to fulfill with deep passion the specific goals that we have outlined to salute this great partisan event. We are also working to carry out the points made to us by the eighth plenary session of the party Central Committee, regarding increasing revolutionary vigilance, basically in the second shift for the guard, as well as surpassing our work in increasing blood donations, in supporting educational activity and in the self-financing of our organization.

[Question] What do you think has been the most outstanding act of the CDRs in the year of the Second Party Congress and of the 20th anniversary of the CDR?

[Answer] Without a doubt, their massive, enthusiastic and patriotic participation in the March of the Fighting People. The imperialist enemy imagined for awhile that our people had lowered their guard. He made contact with some proimperialist puppets in Latin America, and he believed the time was right to present a distorted image of the Cuban people to the world. In our country he relied on the only element that he could rely on, the lumpen, the antisocial, who found their cellars for the stateless in the embassies of Peru and Venezuela and in the U.S. interests office. But the world did not take long to realize that this scum was not our people. Hundreds of thousands of CDR members, in an organized manner, demonstrated their rejection of the antisocial and their condemnation of the imperialists. The marches, on 19 April and 17 May, were gigantic floods, as was the immense turnout for International Workers Day. The world was able to understand from that massive demonstration who are really the people of Cuba, and that the revolution lives--with more strength and determination every day, because our motto "Fatherland or Death" is not a rhetorical display but an irrevocable choice in the new Cuba. The turnout on 28 September will be a continuation of the March of the Fighting People, in which we will reaffirm our order that the antisocial get out of our society of workers; that the imperialist blockade of our country stop; that the marines on the Yankee naval base in Guantanamo be dismissed forever; that the Yankee spy flights that are violating our skies be terminated. The event will be magnificent and enthusiastic. It will be our salute to the great assembly of the party.

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CSO: 3010

EXPEDIPORT DEPUTY NOTES PORT UNLOADING DIFFICULTIES

Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 26 Aug 80 p 2

[Interview with Gabriel Roqueta, EXPEDIPORT Deputy Director, by Vinas Alfonso]

[Text] The officially named Notice of Dispatch, better known as OPE-2, is a document that has brought many difficulties to the port-transport-domestic economy chain. To learn more details about this subject, JUVENTUD REBELDE prepared several questions for Gabriel Roqueta, deputy director of the Port Expediting Enterprise (EXPEDIPORT), in charge of dispatching cargos for import and export by sea as well as by air.

"OPE-2 is a document made up by the importing enterprises, those governed by the Ministry of Foreign Trade as well as by the State Committee for Economic Cooperation [CECE], the CEATM [State Committee for Technical and Material Supply] and others.

"The OPE-2 contains the basic details of a specific merchandise: consignee, contract number, brands, quantity of bundles, gross weight, name of ship, approximate date of arrival, etc. In the OPE-2 one also specifies if the product shipped is reactive, explosive, corrosive, poisonous, inflammable or refrigerated, in accordance with the various international codifications.

"Of course, through the OPE-2 the importing enterprise gives the order to the shipper so that, once the customs procedures have been taken care of, he is able to unload any product from the port area and have it reach the recipients in the domestic economy."

[Question] It would interest us to know through what channel or channels the enterprises receive all this information that is so necessary for making up the OPE-2.

[Answer] Just as it is established in the contracts of sale and purchase, the information must reach the importing enterprises through cables that they may receive from the foreign suppliers or shippers in the various kinds of purchases. In the case of "free on board" the representatives of CUFLET [Cuban Freight Enterprise] in the foreign ports send this information to the importing enterprises.

With this information the enterprises prepare the OPE-2 and in accordance with what has been established, they must deliver it to us 7 days before the arrival of the ship (when the ship is coming from Europe or Asia), but the time period is decreased to 2 days when the ports of origin are near Cuba, as is the case of Mexico, the Caribbean area and the Atlantic coast of Canada.

[Question] Up to this point everything seems very easy. Where do the complications begin?

[Answer] They are many, but we might say that the failure to provide information on time to the various agents is the main complication. For example, the importing enterprises must deliver the OPE-2 to EXPEDIPORT and to the domestic economy so that it is returned 48 hours after having been received (except when it is a matter of shipments coming from ports near Cuba) with the distribution of the product, that is, its destination. Of course, this does not always happen.

In the best of cases, when EXPEDIPORT has in its hands all the information, it presents it to the various customs districts through several dispatching agencies that EXPEDIPORT has in all the country's ports, since it gives the final authorization for the unloading of the port. After the merchandise has been unloaded, the OPE-2 again returns to the importing enterprises with all the documents of proof to certify that the order given was fulfilled and that the merchandise was sent to its final destination.

[Question] Can you tell us about some more specific deficiencies?

[Answer] Yes. The information to the foreign trade enterprises is not the most correct. For example, the name of the merchandise is not recorded, the contract is not clear, and then one has to request clarification or wait for the original manifest, which arrives in advance or which is carried on board the ship and is written in English.

The manifest is translated at the Mambisa Shipping Agents and once translated becomes the official document of Customs. Using this translated manifest, they compare it with what the OPE-2 says; thus, one sees the type of merchandise, its weight, various specifications, and if there is any difference, the OPE-2 must be corrected. This, of course, brings about another series of complications and delays, including the translations' sometimes not agreeing completely and there being differences among the terms used by the translators.

But there are other issues. For instance, if a ship is destined for a certain place and for some unforeseen reason it has to unload in another port, the necessary information is received by telex, and the OPE-2 will have to follow to the location where the merchandise will

be unloaded. This situation has its difficulties. First, every port has its manifest, and when there is a change of port a new manifest has to be made. This consequently brings a change in the number of the consignment and the manifest.

[Question] What do you think about this?

[Answer] Customs is studying the preparation of a manifest that will serve throughout the country, which is going to solve many problems. Moreover, we (EXPEDIPORT), are having difficulties in sending and circulating the OPE-2, and sometimes it is delayed.

As you will understand, this whole situation is complicated when in 1 month cargos arrive on ships not scheduled, or when the domestic enterprises claim they do not have the storage facilities for a specific product. Sometimes the OPE-2 procedures, the clarifications and the correcting of mistakes among all the agents involved have taken weeks. Naturally, in view of the present situation firm steps are being taken to avoid whatever may delay unloading the merchandise and also to achieve facilitating to the maximum all these procedures.

[Question] Can you give us a panoramic view of the specific tasks that EXPEDIPORT has?

[Answer] In the first place, it is a basic part of our work that all imported merchandise should have the correct documentation, and to recommend that merchandise be stowed in ships depending on the geographic destination of its distribution in Cuba. We also plan with the ports to unload the oldest merchandise and with Transport for this merchandise to arrive at its final destination. Also among our functions is making available to the importing enterprises all the documents for them to be able to establish insurance claims in the case of merchandise missing on unloading or damaged, as well as the documents authorizing the unloading of the merchandise.

EXPEDIPORT also is responsible for paying the demurrage on ships, as much in freely convertible currency as by contract, and collecting rapid settlement from foreign shipowners; also EXPEDIPORT has a department that takes care of the procedures for and dispatch of cargo that arrives by air and mail. Moreover, it handles procedures for the merchandise received by foreign technicians living in our country. Further, EXPEDIPORT has signed an agreement with Soviet shipowners for inspection of containers.

As you will have noticed, many factors enter into this whole issue and sometimes reconciling them all becomes bothersome, but knowing the importance for the national economy of the battle that is being waged to decongest the ports, the difficulties created by the OPE-2 have to finally disappear, and we are devoting our greatest effort to this objective.

STUDY ON CONTROLLING VENEREAL DISEASES IN COUNTRY REPORTED

Havana REVISTA CUBANA DE HIGIENE Y EPIDEMIOLOGIA in Spanish Jan-Apr 80
pp 81-94

[Article by Dr Ronald K. St. John, adviser to PAHO (Pan American Health Organization)-WHO on venereal diseases (13-25 November 1978): "Control of Syphilis and Gonorrhea in Cuba"]

[Text] At the request of the Ministry of Public Health of the Republic of Cuba, the author, Dr Ronald K. St. John, deputy director of the Division of Disease Control (CDC), went to Havana, Cuba, as a short-term adviser to the Pan American Health Organization in order to make a study of the venereal disease control program and make recommendations for future actions. The study was made from 13 to 25 November 1978. The travel itinerary is attached hereto. The author especially wishes to thank Dr Leonardo Werthein, Dr Alfredo Abreu and Dr Olenia Hernandez for their assistance, frankness and inexhaustible patience. Without their support, it would not have been possible to prepare this report.

The author hopes that any errors found in this report will be of minor importance. They might be attributed to the relatively short time available to make the study and perhaps to certain difficulties in communicating subtle aspects of the country's health care system and activities relating to the control of venereal diseases.

Background

Health care system: It is essential to make a brief analysis of the health care system in Cuba in order to understand activities relating to the control of syphilis and gonorrhea. Over the past 20 years, Cuba has developed an overall system of basic health care based on a network of outpatient clinics for the people, with hospitals providing secondary and tertiary health care and specialized services for the referral of patients. An important role is played by preventive medicine, with special attention to neonatal and infant mortality. Health care services cover nearly 100 percent of the population and there has been an effective reduction in infant mortality, the incidence of preventable infectious diseases in children and the prevention of malnutrition.

The first level of primary health care is the outpatient clinic. Every outpatient clinic takes care of 30,000 people or less and has a staff of internists, pediatricians, obstetrician-gynecologists and odontologists so that it has available a specialist for a specific number of persons, for example, 1 pediatrician for 1,000 children and 1 obstetrician-gynecologist for 1,000 to 2,500 women. In this way, the staff at every outpatient clinic varies depending on the makeup of the population involved. Each clinic has auxiliary services: a statistical department, X-ray, nursing services, psychology, environmental health and a small laboratory where common analyses of hematology, urinalysis and general blood tests are done. It also performs certain serologic tests such as the VDRL [Venereal Disease Research Laboratories], but very few bacteriologic services are available at this level and those available are not always complete.

Each outpatient clinic is in close touch with community affairs and inter-relates with the people. The medical group provides all basic care and refers patients to nearby hospitals for secondary and tertiary care when more complicated attention is required. For example, prenatal care is provided by obstetrician-gynecologists at the outpatient clinic, but the delivery takes place at a nearby specialized (obstetrics-gynecology) hospital. Prenatal care for women with high-risk pregnancies is generally provided at one of these hospitals.

Patients may freely seek emergency attention at emergency rooms of local secondary-care hospitals or at any one of the clinics that provide emergency services after regular hours. Patients who go to emergency rooms may or may not receive treatment, depending on their disease.

Each outpatient clinic has a detailed data base oriented toward epidemiology in order to determine the state of health of the people being cared for. The clinic is in charge of making and updating the census of its population.

Outpatient clinics are supervised by the municipality where they are located and every municipality is in turn supervised by the province (equivalent to a state).

Physicians may request consultations with a specialist, for example, with a dermatologist, otorhinolaryngologist, oncologist, and so on. In general, the specialist meets with the patient during visits with the doctor at the clinic. Specialized clinics are located only at specialized hospitals, for example, pediatrics and gynecology-obstetrics. There are no single-purpose clinics such as for venereal diseases, family planning, hypertension, tuberculosis, and so on.

Control of syphilis and gonorrhea is completely incorporated into the general health care system. The same group procedure used for general basic care is applied to patients with syphilis or gonorrhea. The doctor in charge of basic care makes the diagnosis in consultation with a dermatologist and a registered nurse specially trained to be an interviewer and

tracker of contacts. Every outpatient clinic (or group of clinics) has a nurse-interviewer to locate contacts.

Syphilis Control Program

In 1962, a national program for the control of syphilis was initiated.¹ Criteria for diagnosis were determined, free attention was provided and an improvement was made in reporting cases. Nevertheless, the coverage provided by health care services for people exposed was inadequate. Laboratory support work varied greatly and epidemiological techniques and the search for contacts were not effective. In 1972, the program was examined at the First National Seminar on Epidemiology and the Control of Venereal Diseases and general outlines were drawn up. The VDRL smear test was reported and determined to be the only serological proof for detection of syphilis. Nurse-interviewers were trained and assigned to different places in the health care system. In the absence of serologic tests confirming the presence of *Treponema*, the definition of a patient with latent syphilis was given as any asymptomatic person with a reaction to the VDRL and a clinical history of a typical syphilitic lesion (in other words, primary or secondary syphilis) or epidemiological proof confirming exposure.² Early latent syphilis was defined as latent syphilis with a duration of less than 2 year.

The following table summarizes the trend of the incidence of syphilis in different phases from 1960 to 1973:

Cases of Syphilis and Rates per 100,000 Inhabitants 1960-1973

Prim., Year	Sec., Cases	Early Latent Rate	Lat. and Cases	Late Latent Rate	Total Cases	Total Rate
1960	296	3.6	287	3.5	590	7.1
1970	440	5.3	166	2.0	619	7.3
1971	757	8.8	212	2.4	969	11.2
1972	1,757	20.0	389	4.6	2,151	24.6
1973	3,585	40.5	832	9.0	4,417	49.6

Source: Reference 1

The spectacular increases in 1972 and 1973 reflect an improvement in detection, definition and the reporting of cases.

In 1973, 46.4 percent of the 3,585 cases of early syphilis detected were symptomatic (primary and secondary syphilis). In the initial phases of the new program, thanks to the detection of contacts, 35.7 percent of the new cases of early syphilis were diagnosed. In 1973, this percentage rose to 50.3 percent.³

Special attention was given to proper treatment of all cases diagnosed and to contacts with positive VDRL results for early syphilis, with a total dose of 6.0 megaunits (mu) of benzathine penicillin G (in doses divided as follows: 2.4 mu initially, followed by 1.2 mu on the 4th, 7th and 10th days). Pregnant women whose VDRL reaction was positive were also treated. More VDRL tests were administered in order to examine all pregnant women (two serological tests per pregnancy), blood donors, patients admitted to hospitals, military personnel, persons subject to periodic health examinations and special vulnerable groups (prisoners, persons seeking advice on birth control, women having abortions). Patients treated are observed for 2 years by means of serological tests performed the 1st, 3rd, 9th, 12th, 18th and 24th months. Great emphasis was placed on the prevention of congenital syphilis by means of extensive serological testing and treatment in the form already indicated. In addition, there was an investigation of spontaneous abortions and intrauterine deaths and cases of congenital syphilis were observed. In one study, Dr Hernandez et al⁴ studied 94 cases of syphilis in pregnant women in Havana in 1973. In 89 cases, early syphilis was diagnosed, including 38 cases of primary or secondary syphilis. The prenatal serological examinations represented 70.2 percent of the cases, while 37.3 percent of the cases in mothers were diagnosed during the first 3 months, 40.4 percent in the second 3 months and 10.6 percent during the last 3 months. The period when the diagnosis was made was unknown in 11.7 percent of the women. In this group, the result of the pregnancies was three abortions, four premature births, 87 normal babies and one baby with congenital syphilis, born to a mother who was allergic to penicillin and who did not complete the oral treatment.

In the following 3 years (1974-1977), congenital syphilis dropped by 50 percent. At the present time, there are very few cases of the disease.

In June 1977, the program was once again examined during the Second National Seminar on Epidemiology and the Control of Venereal Diseases.⁵ Greater use of the ATP-ABS [fluorescent treponemic antibodies] test was proposed, emphasis was placed on the importance of epidemiological analysis and integration of the program in the outpatient clinics was reaffirmed.

Program for Control of Gonorrhea

At the present time, there is no official program for the control of gonorrhea, but plans have been made to organize a program making it possible to measure the increase in gonorrhea and reduce its morbidity. Very few data are available and due to the nearly absolute lack of culture media, very little is known about the incidence of gonococcal infections in women. In the gynecology clinics of the obstetrics-gynecology hospitals, gonococcal complications are frequently observed, such as inflammation of the pelvis, but there is no systematic compilation of data about its incidence. Only a few data are available:

Year	Cases of Gonorrhea Reported	Year	Cases of Gonorrhea Reported
1965	697	1975	4,385
1972	703	1976	6,229
1973	870	1977	8,239
1974	3,233		

Approximately 95 percent of all the cases of gonorrhea are found in men. An unknown percentage of those cases is diagnosed by means of Gram's method. Patients in whom positive results were obtained using that method are treated with a total dose of 14 million units of procaine penicillin G (1 million units twice a day for 7 days). Authorities admit that this is an excessive dose and when the gonorrhea control program is put into effect, changes will be made.

For the treatment of neonatal gonococcal ophthalmia, drops of silver nitrate or penicillin for the eye have been used; this problem is not seen.

Control of Syphilis: Observations and Recommendations, Clinical Aspects

The diagnosis of syphilis is made with great care. All patients with or without symptoms, contacts and companions are subjected to serological tests and quantitative VDRL tests. The laboratory service immediately notifies the doctor, who in turn consults with a dermatologist. As soon as the diagnosis is confirmed, treatment is initiated and the patient is interviewed. Darkfield microscopy is limited. Only at hospital laboratories does this service exist due to the fact that darkfield condensers that can be adjusted to the many different types of microscopes in outpatient clinic laboratories are not available, and only rarely are cases of genital lesions seen at most outpatient clinics. Patients with suspicious lesions are sent to the hospital for examination by darkfield microscopy. Since approximately 13 percent of the cases of early syphilis involve primary syphilis, if darkfield microscopy is used more at outpatient clinics where cases of genital ulcers are taken care of, diagnosis and treatment will be faster.

At certain hospital laboratories, the ATP-ABS test is used to confirm the disease. As a result, asymptomatic patients and contacts with a positive reaction to the VDRL are treated with the first dose of benzathine penicillin G. If during the examination -- that is, during the interview and consultation with the dermatologist -- it is determined that the patient has a positive clinical history or if there is proof that the patient was exposed to the infection, as shown by the epidemiological study or the search for contacts, a definitive diagnosis of early latent syphilis is made and the treatment with penicillin is continued until the plan of 6.0 mu is completed. If these criteria are not met, the report on the case is not complete and treatment is discontinued. In these cases and in pregnant women with positive serological results, the use of the ATP-ABS reaction to confirm the disease will make it possible to clarify the diagnosis more

rapidly and will lead to faster epidemiological intervention. The method of group work for the diagnosis and treatment makes it possible to provide high-quality care. Very few patients who seek care fail to receive proper diagnosis or proper care.

Based on a thorough study of five medical histories and conversations with doctors and nurses acting as interviewers, the consultant came to the conclusion that the method of group work sometimes delays the final diagnosis and treatment. The patient is in no way affected by these delays with respect to final results because the follow-up at the outpatient clinic is very complete. However, from the standpoint of controlling the disease, delays could reduce the effectiveness of activities aimed at halting transmission of the disease by patients or their contacts.

The doses of penicillin used to treat syphilis are adequate for curing and preventing later complications. Patients allergic to penicillin who have syphilis are hospitalized and treated by oral means while under direct observation. Those with congenital syphilis receive proper doses of procaine penicillin G. The use of benzathine penicillin is being discontinued for the treatment of congenital syphilis, as is that of tetracycline for pregnant patients allergic to penicillin.

Recommendations

1 -- The criteria for diagnosis now being applied and plans of treatment are adequate and there is no need to change them.

2 -- Under the current system, there should be an attempt to reduce delays that could affect disease control activities. Regular analyses of common cases should be made at the local level in order to identify methods making it possible to reduce the time between the patient's first visit and final diagnosis.

3 -- All positive VDRL results in patients who it is suspected suffer from latent syphilis should be confirmed by a treponemic test. Before trying to expand the use of the ATG-ABS reaction, the Ministry of Public Health and the National Institute of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Microbiology must investigate the cost, benefits and possibility of performing the microhemagglutination test with *Treponema pallidum* (MHA-TP). This test is less costly and not as complicated. It does not require complicated equipment.

4 -- A study should be made of the possibility of using darkfield microscopy more at outpatient clinics and hospitals where patients very vulnerable to syphilis are seen -- that is, within certain areas of metropolitan Havana. We repeat: The purpose is to reduce the time between initial consultation and the diagnosis and final treatment.

Epidemiological Aspects

Some 200 to 210 nurses were specially trained to track contacts of patients with syphilis. The nurses are assigned to outpatient clinics all over the country. Their duties include: the initial interview in order to gather data concerning contacts, suspicious carriers and partners, future treatment (four injections), serological tests (over a period of 24 months) and the exchange of epidemiological information. For every patient with syphilis interviewed, it is expected that data will be obtained on some ten contacts, suspicious carriers and partners (4, 2 and 4 respectively). At the present time, the national average is 5.1 contacts, suspicious carriers and partners for every patient interviewed.

Over 3 months of experience, one interviewer-nurse found:

Category	April	May	June	Total
Number of cases of early syphilis	8	2	2	12
Number of cases treated completely	8	2	2	12
Number of contacts identified	7	4	6	17
Number of contacts treated	7	4	4*	15
Number of identified suspects	3	3	3	9
Number of partners	3	9	9	21

*Two contacts were outside the area.

At the present time, the interview concentrates on identifying contacts, suspects and partners -- that is, "Who it is" in tracking contacts. Importance is not given to the relation of time between the patient and contacts, the "when" question in tracking contacts. Consequently, there is no systematic analysis of cases by source of propagation. The analysis is hindered even further by the current methods of keeping records, for which the use of many books is required.

Due to the close cooperation between the dermatologist and the nurse-interviewer, patients are interviewed as soon as the diagnosis is made, generally, before it is completed.

There are certain major problems with respect to the exchange of information concerning the tracking of contacts outside municipal areas. Within the municipalities, the nurse-interviewer first of all sends epidemiological forms to the municipality or province where they are exchanged. The form then goes to the new nurse-interviewer. If possible, a more rapid method (such as telephone) is used).

The nurse-interviewer is supervised by another who has been promoted to the municipal level. Case study techniques and interview study techniques are not used. Other measurements of interviewing effectiveness are not being examined.

Recommendations

1 -- If possible, analytical capabilities should be developed in order to identify the source of infection and propagation. The Venereal Disease Control Division of the CDC is willing to provide technical assistance in the form of the services of a high-level official who is an expert in epidemiology and contact tracking in order to train nurse-interviewers and their supervisors in techniques of case analysis and supervision now being used in the United States. Training would be more useful if it would be planned to coincide with courses for nurse-interviewers offered in the country.

2 -- There should be an exploration of methods to improve the exchange of information on the search for contacts. Nurse-interviewers should exchange information directly and send copies of information to higher levels. Such nurses could perhaps be provided with the names and addresses of their colleagues throughout the country in order to be able to send directly by mail the form for the report on the search for contacts when there is no telephone or more rapid method.

3 -- Consideration should be given to the establishment of a new medical records system permitting a thorough analysis of cases. When a patient is interviewed, a file is opened for all information corresponding to that case. An analogous system is now being used in the United States.

Serological Proof

Throughout the country, the VDRL test on slides is being used. Systematic tests are made of numerous groups to detect syphilis, even when such groups would have little exposure to the disease. There has been very little or no evaluation of the results of such tests. In 1974, Dr Werthein et al⁶ analyzed the results of 159,212 serological tests in a specific zone. The percentage of positive results varied from .5 percent at some hospitals to 6.1 percent at certain outpatient clinics that were chosen. The serological tests required for health cards represented 46 percent of the total of 3,825 positive serological tests. Hospitals and general medical and surgical outpatient clinics represented 24.8 percent and 16.1 percent respectively. In analyzing 247 cases of early syphilis, it was observed that 45.1 percent of these cases were detected through serological tests. The tests required for health cards made it possible to identify 48 cases out of a total 662 (7.2 percent) with positive results and presented 43.2 percent (48/111) of all the cases identified by means of such tests. The tests made at outpatient clinics yielded positive results in 28 cases out of a total of 619 (4.5 percent) and represented 25.3 percent of the cases.

The VDRL test is carried out at laboratories located in the outpatient clinics and hospitals. In order to achieve greater effectiveness and improve the quality of tests, an attempt is being made to centralize the VDRL tests at hospital laboratories at the municipal or provincial level.

If a large number of tests is made, automated techniques could be applied. Tests are made one or more times a week, depending on volume.

Positive results are immediately reported. Reference serums for control purposes are prepared by the test laboratory itself and are tried before the customary tests. Such serums are prepared by combining reaction serums, which are sent to provincial laboratories for titration. The titrated serum is sent back to the local laboratory. At provincial laboratories, the test procedures of local laboratories are periodically examined.

During a visit to Fajardo Hospital, the consultant observed the procedure used in the VDRL test. The hospital is the reference center for new outpatient clinics. The VDRL test has been centralized at one of the new outpatient laboratories. These laboratories send tests that gave a weak positive result and 5 percent of the negative results to the Fajardo Hospital laboratory for quality control. This laboratory also does the VDRL tests for all hospitalized and ambulatory patients. It also does ATP-ABS tests with appropriate controls in cases of diagnostic difficulties. However, it does not participate in an outside quality control program to control the quality of its own tests.

All serological tests with weak positive results are quantified in order to eliminate prozonal reactions. At most outpatient clinic laboratories, slides with concavities are used, while at hospital and reference laboratories, plates with paraffin are used. Modern equipment is used at all laboratories: water bath, rotators, and so on. The consultant was very impressed with the success of the congenital syphilis control program. Approximately 100 percent of all pregnant women are subjected to two serological tests as a minimum during the prenatal care period. For want of confirmatory proof, the vigorous treatment is justified. Subsequent observation of patients treated is adequate, but a more conservative method would involve the completion of serological tests every month for the purpose of observing treated patients in order to ascertain whether there is an adequate serological response making it possible to guarantee the detection of a later reinfection during the pregnancy.

Recommendations

1 -- The consultant agrees with the current plans for centralizing VDRL tests. Testing in large quantities would make it possible to complete tests daily, thereby reducing delays between the obtention of the blood sample and the reporting of results. The use of the automatized reagent test could further improve effectiveness. This reaction is technically absorbent. Equipment breakdowns are relatively common and spare parts must be kept on hand.

2 -- Centralized serological tests usually require more complicated records in order to facilitate the rapid working out of test results. The flow of samples going through the laboratories analyzing large volumes of such samples must be watched to detect excessive delays in reporting results.

3 -- It is necessary to expand internal and external quality control systems so as to include all laboratories performing VDRL or ATF-ABS tests. Serum samples whose positive reactions are known should be sent without identification to the test laboratory. The nurse-interviewer can serve as an intermediary receiving the serum for the test, identifying it with a fictitious name and sending it through customary channels to the test laboratory.

4 -- The CDC welcomes the participation of laboratories of the National Institute of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Microbiology in the international outside quality control program.

5 -- Laboratories of the National Institute of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Microbiology or another appropriate laboratory should coordinate all outside quality control programs and quality control of tests. The centralized control would make it possible to produce well-defined control serums for daily use in the laboratories that do the VDRL test.

6 -- An expert in serological tests from a competent laboratory should be available to go to the CDC to study the current procedures used in serological testing and outside quality control programs. With this study, the application of quality control techniques in Cuba would be facilitated.

Statistics and Reporting System

The little time available prevented the completion of an extensive study of current or proposed reporting systems. Consequently, no important recommendations can be formulated.

All cases diagnosed are immediately reported and sent to the municipal, provincial and national levels. In addition, at the municipal level, 21 tables are completed, which are added to the national level for the completion of epidemiological analyses.

The reporting system is also used as a confirmation system for supervising the work of the nurse-interviewer, dermatologists and doctors in the outpatient clinics under the municipal level.

There are currently systems for the collection of data in the CDC for comparative purposes. Cuba's system was redesigned and will be set up shortly. In the future, it will be necessary to reexamine the usefulness of the proposed forms.

Control of Gonorrhea: Observations and Recommendations

Although no structured program for the control of gonorrhea has been set up, the consultant studied the most recent plan to control the disease. In the course of numerous discussions, various aspects of importance and problems that must be solved were identified.

Treatment of Diagnosed Cases

No data were available to determine the level of resistance of gonococci in the country. No attempt was made to detect the presence of strains that produce beta lactam. It is recognized that the treatment now recommended is excessive (14 mu of procaine penicillin G) and new courses of treatment will be selected.

Recommendations

1 -- Until data is collected, the Ministry of Public Health should consider the possibility of accepting the revised treatment recommendations of the CDC for gonococcal infections, both complicated and uncomplicated.

2 -- Until the National Institute of Hygiene Epidemiology and Microbiology can develop the capacity to control resistance to antibiotics and beta lactam tests, the Venereal Disease Control Division of the CDC is available to determine the sensitivity of a limited number of strains to antibiotics (50 to 100).

Diagnostic Techniques

Patients with gonorrhea are diagnosed and treated at outpatient clinics and hospital emergency rooms of the second level. All outpatient clinics are equipped with excellent microscopes and the equipment needed to do stains using Gram's method. Stains of urethral secretions from males using Gram's method are sensitive and specifically for the diagnosis of gonorrhea. The consultant was not able to determine the degree to which this test is used in emergency rooms or outpatient clinics where very few men with urethral secretions are treated, that is, two or three a month.

The venereal disease control program in Cuba has specially avoided the use of endocervical *frotis* by means of Gram's method. When this test is cautiously interpreted, it constitutes a diagnosis of gonorrhea. The use of this test makes rapid identification and treatment of the patient and contacts possible.

The existence of Thayer-Martin culture media for diagnostic or study purposes is extremely limited. When the country's culture capacity is improved, the use of such culture media should be closely examined. As planned, gonorrhea control activities will be integrated into the current outpatient clinic structure. In this way, patients with gonorrhea will be scattered over several clinics (approximately 70 in Havana alone). Cultures at clinics will be costly due to the low expected production and cannot be recommended. The use of cultures in services of an area of specialization such as in outpatient gynecology clinics or obstetrics-gynecology clinics will make it possible, however, to identify a larger number of gonorrhea infections, not only in symptomatic women and women with pelvic inflammations, but also in asymptomatic women (50 to 80 percent of all infected women), if the

latter are included. The consultant was not able to determine whether hospital emergency rooms treat many symptomatic women, but it is known that such rooms do treat men with gonorrhea with some frequency.

Decisions must be made about the production, distribution and quality control of culture media. It is necessary to establish standards for the use of cultures for diagnostic purposes and subsequent observation and not for disease control. It is necessary to standardize and supervise sample obtention techniques. The means by which cultures are taken to laboratories must be set up.

Recommendations

1 -- At all outpatient clinics and emergency rooms, the preparation of *frotis* using Gram's method for samples from men with urethral secretions must be initiated. In men with a history of urethral secretions, the sample should be obtained from the anterior ureter with a bacteriologic instrument or cotton tipped swab.

2 -- At all outpatient clinics, emergency rooms and special clinics, endocervical *frotis* should be made using Gram's method for samples from women undergoing pelvic examinations. A cautious interpretation of the *frotis* must be made (that is, the presence of intracellular, gram-negative, typical diplococcus in the leucocytes). It will be necessary to train laboratory technicians. There are publications recommending the use of *frotis* by means of Gram's method in women.

3 -- In the beginning, the analysis of cultures should only be made at hospitals and clinics of an area of specialization, as in the case of obstetrics-gynecology, where laboratories are easily available and no messenger-mail systems are needed. The following aspects must be considered:

a -- Cultures must be inoculated the moment the examination is made.

b -- Cultures must be placed in an incubator in an atmosphere of carbon dioxide as soon as possible.

Inexpensive incubators and covered jars generally make incubation possible where the examination is conducted until the laboratory can gather the cultures from each day. In this way, all cultures must be available for the initial interpretation on the afternoon of the day following their preparation and for final reading on the afternoon of the second day (48 hours).

c -- An examination must be made of patients with positive cultures and with inflammation of the pelvis giving a positive reading in order to try to identify population groups with a relatively high rate of gonorrhea. Subsequently, the examination of cultures should extend to the clinics handling these high-risk groups.

d -- If, in the emergency rooms, many symptomatic women are seen, then the cultures must be prepared there in order to detect gonorrhea. Out-patient clinics should also try to identify high-risk groups in which systematic cultures yield 4-6 percent positive results.

e -- In all women treated for gonorrhea, a culture should be made for purposes of confirmation, whenever possible, 3 to 5 days after the last dose of antibiotics was administered in order to ensure that the infection was cured. This makes it possible to determine the efficacy of treatment. It would also be useful to obtain another confirmation culture 4 to 6 weeks after treatment in order to detect reinfection, perhaps through asymptomatic male contacts not treated.

f -- As the use of cultures expands, cultures should also be made from samples taken from women yielding positive results with Gram's stain, from contacts with gonorrhea and from men with a urethral secretion whose Gram stain is negative (in 5 percent of the cases, the cultures will be positive).

4 -- In order to maintain the quality of the culture media, centralized services must be set up for the production of cultures at the National Institute of Hygiene, Epidemiology and Microbiology and other suitable laboratories. Quality control techniques must be applied to every lot before it is distributed to places where it will be used. In these places, cultures should be made periodically from samples taken from men with a positive Gram stain as a quality control measure. A minimum of 95 percent of all men who are gram-positive should yield positive results. In approximately 50 percent of the women having contact with men suffering from gonorrhea, the cultures should be positive.

5 -- Before undertaking the production of culture media and culture control, a competent Cuban microbiologist should consult with the CDC in order to study basic bacteriological techniques for the isolation of gonococci, quality control systems, the production of culture media and sensitivity tests to antibiotics.

Epidemiological Aspects

Current plans recommend that nurse-interviewers conduct thorough interviews with all positive cases of gonorrhea. The program anticipates the treatment of 10,000 to 20,000 cases a year and it would perhaps not be possible to make thorough interviews. Based on experience in the United States, in interviews with women suffering frequently from gonorrhea without complications, they mention contacts that have already had symptoms and that were treated. Moreover, interviews with women having repeated pelvic inflammations and repeated infections might lead to the detection of asymptomatic infected male contacts.

Recommendations

1 -- Consideration should be given to interviewing techniques to take the place of those traditionally used. There are examples of other methods in which the patient refers his contact to a reference service.

2 -- Studies should be made of results of traditional techniques in specially selected groups such as women with pelvic inflammations.

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CSO: 3010

ISLAND'S BLEAK ECONOMIC PICTURE DISCUSSED

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 27 Sep 80 p 10

[Text]

ROSEAU, Dominica.
Thursday (CANA) —

Dominicans have always known hard times, but some will tell you now that they could hardly have been worse than they are today.

In this poor, backward 289 square mile island, unemployment is estimated at a staggering 35 per cent the main export and foreign exchange earner, the banana industry is struggling and the state is recovering very slowly from the massive damage done by two hurricanes in the space of a year.

There is a deficit of more than EC\$25 million (US\$9.2 million) 1979-80 Budget and at the moment Dominica needs about EC\$1.7 million (US\$629 000) monthly to pay Government employees.

"...Because of the destruction of the hurricanes it prevents us from earning enough revenue to meet our current expenses, so that every month you are wondering where the salaries are coming from", Prime Minister Eugenia Charles who is Minister of Finance said during an interview on the problems facing her new administration.

Since 1977 the island has faced an average fall of over three per cent in its Gross Domestic Production (GDP) per year on the 1972 level. This compared with the modest real growth in the 1960s of two per cent.

"The island's poor performance of the 70s is attributable to a combination of factors including bad weather, domestic industrial unrest, international economic recession and a deteriorating investment climate", a report by the Barbados-owned Caribbean Development Bank said.

Miss Charles sees the international economic recession "as a serious setback for Dominica, at a time when the need for additional foreign aid has been so intensified by recent unfortunate events".

Agriculture, which has over the years been the mainstay of the island's fragile economy, continues to do so, with bananas being the main export crop.

1978 was the best ever year for banana production with nearly 48 000 tonnes being produced. This figure dropped substantially last year to 21 800 tonnes.

The dramatic slump was due almost entirely to killer Hurricane David in August 1979. The disaster was particularly difficult to swallow, since at the time bananas were fetching very high prices on the lucrative United Kingdom market.

The total effect of David on the island's economy was dramatic. During the presentation of her Budget Miss Charles said "total local revenue will therefore

decrease by an estimated EC\$10.6 million (US\$4 million) to EC\$32.4 million (US\$12 million) leaving a gap of EC\$28.6 million dollars (US\$10.5 million) between the recurrent revenue estimates and the recurrent expenditure estimates".

The depressing economic situation has been present everywhere and business activity has been slow.

"A number of businesses here have closed in the last few years others have gradually shrunk..." Parry Bellot, President of the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce said.

"Inflation figures vary depending on where they originate, but using 1970 as a base year, inflation up to the present is easily up to 200 or 250 per cent", Mr. Bellot said adding "it has been difficult to make ends meet".

In 1979 Dominica's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) — the total value of all locally-produced goods and services — stood at just over EC\$102 million (US\$35 million) a drop of almost EC\$13 million (US\$5 million) over 1978, and this was the second highest figure recorded since 1975.

The 1979 figure showed a decline in all sectors of the island's revenue except the construction industry which recorded a marginal increase over the figures of 1978. But this

is thought to be the effect of much repair work done after David knocked down thousands of houses and buildings.

"One would feel that we have basically seven key export items and if we use the 1978 figures we see that bananas is still the major revenue earner", Mr. Bellot said as he reviewed the performances of the coconut, bay oil, citrus, soap and agro industries, other vital revenue earners.

Unlike some other Caribbean islands, Dominica does not abound in beautiful white sand beaches and generates no meaningful tourism.

But even this negligible area is slipping, the second quarters figures for 1980 show there were 2 524 visitors to Dominica compared with the same period last year, which saw more than 7 000 tourists come here.

With unemployment running as high as 34.91 per cent, the private sector believes that some attempt should be made to lure major Western countries to set up factories here, with the hope of encouraging employment and improving Dominica's per capita income.

"These are the countries that have the money.... I think that we need a programme under which any development programme will involve money, manpower, material and management", Bellot states.

"We feel that we can approach the developed countries to supply money and management and we in Dominica can supply materials and manpower".

The Government, aware of the financial burden faced by all

non-oil producing developing countries and the seemingly united capacity of rich states to help is hoping that one of the materials which it can assist the private sector to develop the investment climate here is by providing cheap energy through the country's geo-interenergy potential.

With the abundance of rivers, there is said to be one for each day of the year, the island's new administration is hoping to seek financial aid from major lending institutions to finance extension of the island's hydro-electric potential.

"If we can do this, we will, at least lessen the overwhelming problems created by the petroleum war between the oil producing and industrialised countries", Miss Charles reasons.

But one problem which the Government still has to face is that of meeting salary increases to public servants, a perennial problem to successive administrations.

At present the Government has to pay out an estimated EC11 million (US\$4 million) to civil servants in backpay. With very little revenue, the treasury is by Government admission, not able to pay.

"Unless we can borrow money to pay it we will not be able to meet it and we have two or three measures we are thinking of, so that we can be able to borrow this money. We would like to pay it out and forget about it, but whether we will be able to raise the loan is something else", the Prime Minister has said.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PQD LEADER WORRIED ABOUT ELECTORAL BOARD DISORGANIZATION

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 1 Oct 80 pp 1, 12

[Article by Hugo A. Ysalguez]

[Text] The president of the Democratic Quisqueyan Party (PQD), retired Gen Elias Wessin y Wessin, yesterday expressed his concern regarding the "disorganization in the Central Electoral Board (JCE)," pointing out that unless the shortcomings are rectified in time, the upcoming elections "will be plagued with irregularities."

The political leader stated that if the general elections were held now, more than half of the voting population would not be able to go to the polls because they lack their election card and because the election boards where they would cast their ballots are too far away.

He indicated that the JCE intends to put the voter register in order if the government gives it enough funds to do so.

He added that "the government has turned a deaf ear to the JCE's calls for sufficient funds to insure that the upcoming elections are well organized and fair."

Wessin said that the PQD has an ongoing campaign to see to it that its members secure their election card in time, to avoid snags when election day arrives.

He expressed surprise that the other political organizations are not worried about the government giving the JCE the funds it needs to revamp the voter register.

Wessin stated that "the Reformist Party stripped thousands of persons of their election card, and therefore many Dominicans do not have this important document."

"After the 1978 election, the Reformist Party stripped hundreds of thousands of Dominicans of their election cards to contest that election," he stated.

The PQD leader indicated that many Dominicans moved after Hurricane David and thus do not know where they are supposed to cast their votes.

"We completely support the JCE in its call for more funds to organize the upcoming elections," he emphasized.

He then urged the other parties to call on the government to meet the JCE's request, because fair and free elections will benefit opposition parties.

"The next elections cannot be held unless the voter register is organized," Wessin stressed.

He pointed out that the PQD is preparing to run in the 1982 elections and to win, but he said that this depended on whether the primaries could be organized soon enough to avoid suspicions.

"I do not understand how the other political parties can remain silent and say nothing about the JCE request," Wessin underscored.

Separately, he said he was in favor of a bill to make the Bureau of Personal Identification Cards and Registry Office a branch of the Central Electoral Board. He added that the PQD was the first party to propose this move, so that elections would be as fair as possible.

"The Reformist Party now comes out with a really constructive bill, and they will realize that this step will guarantee free elections," he said.

He stated that during the 12 years that they were in power the Reformists did not venture to put forth and implement the idea, adding that now that they are in the opposition they realize that this is a constructive step.

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PENA GOMEZ SPEAKS OUT ON VARIOUS TOPICS

Haitian Work Force, Reforestation

Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 2 Oct 80 pp 1, 4

[Article by Nelson Encarnacion]

[Text] Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez asserted yesterday that we should "abolish" the participation of foreigners in cane cutting, and it was his feeling that the country had sufficient manpower to do the work that "year after year" is performed by foreign cutters, who are thus creating a population problem.

The secretary general of the PRD said that due to the "appalling living conditions to which this thankless work dooms people," it is done only by "exploited foreigners."

Pena Gomez pointed out that the "population problem" is aggravated by the "selfishness of our powerful classes, who refuse to grant their workers their legitimate rights stemming from their role in creating the country's wealth."

The PRD leader added that we ought to abolish the participation of foreigners in cane cutting because this strenuous and poorly paid work has been performed "for many years now by aliens, with the resulting transfer of money overseas and the competition from cheap labor that is heightening our growing joblessness."

He went on to say that the cane cutting by Haitian laborers also creates "a situation of injustice and exploitation in our cane fields that has warranted international attention and is prompting condemnation of our country."

Pena Gomez discussed the issue of Haitian laborers whom the government hires every year to cut cane on the sugar plantations of the State Sugar Council (CEA), after analyzing the "Medical Campaign" held last week by PRD professionals in various spots in the southern region of the country.

He spoke yesterday on the program "Tribuna Democratica," the radio voice of the government party.

At another point in his speech Pena Gomez stated that "we can eradicate illiteracy, vaccinate all of our children and eliminate poliomyelitis."

He indicated that to do this "we have to dedicate ourselves to working for the country and we all have to make sacrifices, the people on top and the people on the bottom, the people in government and the people in the opposition."

He added that in particular "we PRD members have to shunt aside our internal strife and give priority to the struggle against poverty, disease, ignorance and hunger."

He pointed out that the PRD has stepped to the fore, and so have the professionals, who many thought were joining the party only to secure a position, "whereas many comrades who call themselves proletarians are proving to be engaged in 'corridor politics,' empty jabber, factional struggle and loafing."

"Let's all get to work to improve this country, because that is what the people elected us to do, to resolve their problems, not to go around looking for a revolver to wear on our belts, or to ride pompously in official cars, or to walk around with our chests puffed out in a false attitude of self-sufficiency and superiority," he stated.

He added that "this time the professionals have outdone the party's rank-and-file, which seems to be paralyzed and confused by the factional struggle, whereas the professionals are ignoring this and working solely on behalf of the party."

He asserted that "we have to hold down, regulate and control the internal struggle, and for this purpose we are going to visit all of the party's zonal committees in the National District, to preside at assemblies and determine who is working for the party and who is not."

The government party leader went on to say that the country has the wherewithal to cover our barren mountains "with green trees again and the sources of our rivers with thick woodlands and songbirds that will enrich our fauna, which are rapidly becoming extinct."

Pena Gomez also stressed in his speech the work that the government is doing in the field of public health, adding, however, that this job cannot be left just to the government, because all of the country's sectors have to take part.

He said that during the medical campaign staged by the PRD on the 12th, 13th and 14th of last month, 20,000 patients were seen by doctors in more than 15 towns in the southern region of the country.

He said that a truck loaded with medicines went around distributing them free of charge to persons requesting medical assistance.

Membership Increase Called For

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 2 Oct 80 pp 1, 14

[Article by Hugo A. Ysalguez]

[Text] The secretary general of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, said yesterday that his party does not deserve the people's trust if it is not able to utilize its grass roots strength in solving the country's problems.

Speaking on "Tribuna Democratica," the PRD leader stated that a political party must not be factory turning out candidates and officials.

"I have always said that the most important thing for a political party is to control the masses, but we have also repeated to the point of boredom that a program of social change cannot be carried out just with the masses," he stressed.

He pointed out that a party that lacks individuals capable of carrying out programs and changes aimed at bettering a nation's lot is doomed to failure.

Pena Gomez said that his silence over the last few days was due to health problems, adding that during this time some very important developments have taken place that warrant his attention and that are of interest to the nation and to the PRD.

"A political party cannot just issue press releases, make converts and prepare for elections every 4 years," he stated.

He added that the Dominican Republic is facing enormous problems, such as, for example, the one million Dominicans who do not know how to read or write, the poor health of a major portion of its population, and the ongoing destruction of its woodlands, which threatens to turn the country into a desert.

Another problem cited by Pena Gomez is sugarcane cutting. He said that this strenuous and poorly paid work has been done for many years by Haitian citizens, which has resulted in a transfer of money overseas and has brought in competition from cheap foreign labor, thus aggravating our mounting unemployment and creating a situation of injustice and exploitation in the country's cane fields.

"These are just some of the problems that the PRD can and will help to solve, but they cannot be solved just by government efforts or with the support of a single party," Pena Gomez stated.

He then clarified: "Reforestation of the country, teaching our people to read and write, abolishing foreign participation in cane cutting, eradicating epidemics and providing health care to all Dominicans who need it are tasks that can be accomplished only with the cooperation of all Dominicans."

The PRD leader stated that during the most recent party convention he stressed that its doors would be opened to technicians and university professionals.

He recalled that on that occasion he proposed that university professionals be given a favored place in the PRD.

"Many national and municipal PRD leaders were afraid that the newly arrived professionals would take away their jobs, but the correctness of my proposal has been demonstrated as the months have gone by, and today we are witnessing the hoped-for merger of the PRD masses with the university professionals who had remained outside partisan political activity," he stated.

He asserted that aside from the 1,500 professionals who registered at two meetings organized in the National District, the interest in attracting professionals has spread to all PRD branches.

"As evidence of this interesting movement I would mention that on the 24th 103 agricultural professionals took the oath of party allegiance in the city of Santiago and on the 28th in Mao the oath was taken by 64 more out of a total of 100 who registered in the party, but the remaining 36 were unable to make it because of transportation difficulties," he indicated.

He asserted that this month in Moca a mass registration of 250 professionals was undertaken, while more than 70 professionals recently took the oath of party allegiance in Zone K of the National District, adding that in almost all PRD zones rank-and-file committees made up entirely of professionals are being organized, with Zone C already having one.

Separately, Pena Gomez said that the PRD recently staged a medical-social campaign in the southern region of the country during which more than 20,000 patients were treated.

"In staging the medical campaign, the Coordinating Committee collected a large amount of medicines thanks to the generous cooperation of several laboratories and pharmacies, as well as personal charitable donations," he stated.

He indicated that special congratulations are due the PRD branch in Puerto Rico, in particular the secretary general of the affiliate, Mr Tomas Gonzalez, and his wife Mary de Gonzalez, who as soon as they learned of the intention to stage the medical campaign, began collecting food and medicine, which they immediately shipped to our country and which our doctors were thus able to take with them to the provinces in the south.

"This is not the first time that our comrades in the Puerto Rico branch have acted quickly and efficiently to help our people. They also did so when hurricanes David and Frederick passed through and long before that, when heavy flooding caused serious damage in several provinces of the Cibao. This is how to help the party, with honest, disinterested work, not just with branch activities," Pena Gomez underscored.

In conclusion, he said that all of the country's leaders ought to take after the spirit of service shown by PRD member Tomas Gonzalez and the heads of the Puerto Rico branch.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PAPER SAYS SUGAR SHORTAGES MUST BE RESOLVED

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 27 Sep 80 p 6

[Editorial: "Sugar"]

[Text] Hoarding does not create shortages; shortages cause hoarding.

When people notice that hoarding is going on because an item is in short supply, they tend to attribute the shortage to hoarding.

Hoarding is one of the ills that stem from shortages.

There is a real shortage of refined sugar simply because demand outstrips production.

This situation will seemingly last for years.

Neither low-price sales nor rationing to stores or distributor organizations will resolve the problem.

And there will be hoarding, because of the shortages.

It has been said that some sugar earmarked for domestic consumption has been exported clandestinely, and this is probably true.

On account of the price difference between sugar for domestic consumption and sugar on the world market, it is very tempting to clandestinely export sugar purchased for the home market.

This is an issue that warrants attention.

We Dominicans will have to consume more brown or cream sugar.

The consensus is that a purer cream sugar should be made available.

The problem of refined sugar is going to last quite a while, but we must seek a solution right now by boosting the production capacity of this kind of sugar.

Experts have pointed out that an intermediate variety of sugar could possibly be produced, with smaller investment requirements for equipment, which could be set up promptly. This approach should also be looked into.

UNCONDITIONAL BAN OF ALL SOUTH AFRICAN GOODS ANNOUNCED

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 27 Sep 80 p 3

[Text]

ST GEORGES, Grenada, Friday (CANAL) — The Grenada Government today announced an unconditional ban on all trade with South Africa, following the discovery on supermarket shelves here of canned fruit from the racially-divided African state.

A statement from the Legal Affairs Ministry said it had investigated the presence here of canned South African mushrooms following a story in the Government-owned "Free West Indian" newspaper.

The paper had quoted the owner of the supermarket where the goods were seen as saying that the fruit were supplied by a company in Canada and he was unaware of the fact that the imports had originated from South Africa.

The Government statement said: "The Ministry looked into the legal position relative to the importation of South African

goods into Grenada and advised that goods can only be imported under and by virtue of laws existing before the (March 1979) revolution, if a special licence was issued to an importer. There is no record of any licence having been issued for the importation of South African goods.

"The People's Revolutionary Government has decided to affect a total ban on all trade with South Africa and accordingly the Ministry of Legal Affairs has drafted the necessary legal documents.

"All importers are hereby advised that under no circumstances what so ever will the importation of goods originating in South Africa be allowed into Grenada and the People's Revolutionary Government and the people of Grenada totally condemn and deplore the racist and fascist government of South Africa."

CSO: 3020

PRIME MINISTER LAUDS LAUNCHING OF CUBAN COSMONAUT

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 27 Sep 80 p 3

[Text]

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada, Friday (CANA) —

Grenada's Prime Minister, Maurice Bishop, has said that the launching of Cuban Cosmonaut Arnaldo Tamayo Mendez into space "is very significant for Caribbean and Latin American countries in many respects."

The Government Information Service (GIS) quoted Mr. Bishop as saying "not only is Arnaldo Tamayo Mendez the first Cuban, first Latin American, first Caribbean man, first black man to be launched into space. For the Cuban people, and for all of us throughout the Caribbean and Latin America it is a great leap forward in the world of science and technology."

Mr. Bishop also noted that the Cuban and Soviet cosmonauts sent up last week will be carrying out a number of experiments designed by Cuban scientists, to benefit the Caribbean nations.

Bishop also said that "this event is also another indication on the part of the socialist

countries of their willingness to share their experience in science and technology with the developing countries.

If should be noted, he said, a Vietnamese had recently accompanied the Soviets on a joint space flight.

"Continuing exploration of the peaceful use of outer space has been closely related to the advancement of the developing countries and was made possible by extensive co-operation among the ten socialist countries participating in the intercosmos programme," said Mr. Bishop.

"So we of revolutionary Grenada salute this latest manifestation of further co-operation between the socialist world and the developing countries.

"And we hail this, not only as a historic occasion for the Cuban people, but also as a great achievement for the entire Caribbean and Latin America, all of which stand to benefit from the peaceful use of outer space," he concluded.

CHURCH DOCUMENT PROTESTS AGAINST VIOLENT TREATMENT

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Sep 80 p 3

[Text] A Canadian nuns' convent located in Morales, Izabal, in the northern part of the Republic of Guatemala, was recently subjected to an attack by individuals who threw hand grenades at the building where the nuns were sleeping. A similar attack occurred simultaneously at the parish house in the same locality.

These events come within the context of repression which the military dictatorship headed by Romeo Lucas Garcia has pursued against the Christians in Guatemala who have committed themselves to the cause of the people.

This type of attack has even extended to the murder of priests, both Guatemalan and foreign, in the El Quiche zone, a department situated in the northern part of Guatemala, in particular. In this area, all of the priests and nuns have been forced to leave in view of the refusal of the Guatemalan authorities to guarantee them a minimum of safety in the pursuit of their pastoral activities.

This document, drafted by the El Quiche diocese itself, objectively and without melodrama describes the harsh reality which exists as a result of the repression by the Guatemalan army.

I. Pastoral Background

Since the diocese of El Quiche was created, the bishops and workers in the pastorate of the diocese have tried to remain faithful to the doctrine of the second Vatican council. Throughout these years, the conscience of the faithful has been awakened to a greater commitment of love and solidarity to their brothers, especially the most needy. The Catholic Church, respectful of cultures, secular traditions and various levels of education, has patiently, with a mother's love, obtained excellent fruit in human and religious advancement.

The guidelines set forth by the bishops in Medellin and more recently in Puebla contributed to a better understanding of the will of God for His people. Catholics, like all human beings aware of universal brotherhood, have collaborated in the joint effort for progress, peace and advancement.

The diocese of El Quiche has since then done self-sacrificing work to offer the Lord more worthy, more just and more humane Guatemalans. It has never departed

from the guidelines of the Catholic Church, within the framework of the Guatemalan constitution.

The Church, mother and teacher of the people, has pursued its cultural and spiritual calling with love. Aware that the fatherland needed good and well-trained Guatemalans, it undertook the arduous task, sparing no effort or sacrifice, in full generosity.

Regrettably, this evangelical work has been misunderstood and criticized by those who are terrified by the universal fate of the great family of God. In recent years, the Catholic Church has found itself hindered, cruelly persecuted and criticized in its work.

This contradictory situation has become more acute since 1976, when all of Guatemala suffered one of the greatest disasters in its history, the February earthquake. The diocese of El Quiche dedicated itself to aiding the needy, without restrictions of race, creed or social status. This social activity awakened baseless suspicions and it was consistently slandered and accused of reflecting partisan and political interests.

II. Tragic Events

This year, 1980, has been a Calvary for the Catholic people in the department. The wave of violence from which the entire world is suffering is an insufficient explanation. On various occasions the diocese of El Quiche has raised its voice in a demand for justice in view of the flagrant violations of the most basic human rights. It was our duty, as human beings, as Christians and as Guatemalans.

A. In May of this year, the diocese suffered the machinegunning of the Uspantan Convent. The priests and nuns in that parish and the parishes of Cunen and Chicaman had to withdraw in view of the difficult working conditions and the lack of personal safety.

B. In the month of June our diocese donned mourning when Father Jose Maria Gran Cirera and his sexton were murdered in Chajul, forcing the monks, nuns and priests of the parishes of Nebaj, Chajul and Cotzal to depart.

C. The entire northern part of El Quiche was left without spiritual aid. The bishop of the diocese attempted to launch a dialog with the authorities to ensure respect for the mission of the Church and the physical safety of Catholics. Nothing positive was achieved.

D. In the month of July, Father Faustino Villaneueva was assassinated in his Joyabaj parish office, and as in the preceding cases, this forced the nuns working in the area to depart.

There have been no investigations of the crimes involved in any of these events to date. The murderers are free to function.

The violence pursued in the department of El Quiche reached a humanly intolerable situation when plans for an attack on the life of the bishop of the diocese were revealed. To these terrible deeds of blood and violence are added the tragedy of

the many poor families in our diocese who weep for the loss of their husbands, fathers or sons, and the death threats against various priests and nuns among those still remaining in the department, such that all were forced to depart, with the resulting closing of parish churches, seminaries, boarding schools and other aid projects.

III. Evaluation and Decision

The members of the pastorates headed by their bishop meditated in the light of their faith on what the best path for preventing this repression, persecution and the death of Christians would be. The Catholic faith, following the gospel of Christ loyally, is the basis of the scandalous motivation of the murderers' attacks. As when Jesus trod the path to Calvary carrying the cross, the forces of darkness will not accept the light of God. Hundreds of us Catholics are aware of this and live in hope. Christ came to the world to suffer a painful Good Friday in order to achieve the glory of the resurrection. Nothing can force the Christian spirit, nurtured by the blood of martyrs and saints, to bow. We protest that Catholics, as good Guatemalan Christians, have been martyred without reason. Lives useful to the fatherland have been lost because of slander and false interpretations of the word of God.

The conference of Guatemalan bishops attempted to correct this situation, establishing contacts and launching dialog with the authorities. No guarantees of respect or physical safety or of the lives of the members of the pastorate were given.

The conclusion which has been reached is that at this tragic moment in the history of Guatemala it is no longer possible to provide any kind of spiritual aid in the diocese of El Quiche, and that therefore a temporary withdrawal will be necessary. The bishop, priests and nuns have decided to leave the diocese awaiting minimally favorable conditions for returning. This forced absence does not mean abandonment or renunciation of service to the Christian people of El Quiche.

It represents a sincere decision reached in faith, which showed us the only path possible to aid our people, as witnesses to Guatemalan Christians of our protest against the current situation, and our energetic appeal to the authorities to do everything possible to resolve the problem which fills us with pain.

IV. Appeal to Hope

The Catholic Church has experienced difficult circumstances, persecution, death and misunderstanding throughout the 2,000 years of its existence. We beg of you to remain firm in your faith, to keep alive the light of hope and the flame of the love of God and one's neighbor.

We will never be alone if we have Christ and his mother the Virgin Mary as our guides. We cannot take the wrong path because we go hand in hand with the Good Shepherd. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Timothy, 1:7).

Circumstances change and we hope that soon the diocese of El Quiche will return to normalcy.

As the word of God tells us, we must be alert to the greedy wolves who will try to mislead, rob and murder the souls of Christians. Our best defense is to suffer with the Church, standing with our bishop, the head of the diocese. Painful though the present provisions may be, we are certain that following the torment and the violence which afflict us, the sun of the justice of God the bountiful Father will shine.

We are always with you.

5157

CSO: 3010

GOVERNMENT EXAMINES COAL AS ALTERNATIVE TO OIL

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 28 Sep 80 p 3

[Article by Suzann Francis]

[Text]

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Saturday, (CANA) — The Jamaican Government is examining the possibility of converting its main energy-consuming industries from oil to coal.

"It is clear," Prime Minister Michael Manley told a Press conference, "that the price of energy output relationship between coal and oil for industrial uses is now massively in favour of coal. The potential savings in foreign exchange in a conversion of major industries from oil to coal in Jamaica are correspondingly great".

And Barclay Ewart, head of the Government's Jamaica Industrial Development Corporation (JIDC) and chairman of a task force which the Government has established to look into the conversion, said Jamaica could possibly anticipate an annual savings of some US \$337 million by switching from oil to coal.

Jamaica currently uses some 1.5 million tonnes of oil per annum for power generation by the bauxite companies, the Jamaica Public Service Company (JPS) and the state-owned cement company, Mr. Ewart said.

He said the conversion rate was approximately seven barrels of oil to one tonne of coal and that the comparative cost was presently some \$225 per tonne for coal landed in Jamaica.

Mr. Ewart noted that coal had only 70 per cent the heating value of oil, but said the cost comparison for equivalent heating value was still in favour of coal, at US \$37 for coal and US \$225 for oil — a saving of US \$158 per tonne.

However, the Government has indicated that while price factors currently favoured a change to coal, it was necessary to look at long-term availability of supplies and reliability of price.

"Government wants to see if we can achieve a major saving, say over the next five years or so, in the energy bill," Prime Minister Manley said.

"Our view is that the coal thing looks very promising. But to really make it realisable option, we have to look at whether we can get reliable prices, assured supplies, all these things," he said.

Mr. Manley said the task force, which includes personnel from energy organisations locally as well as from industry,

was to have a preliminary report ready within two months.

He said the committee would be charged with examining the feasibility of converting the JPS and the cement company, in the first instance, from oil to coal. These two state-owned operations together use some 39 per cent of Jamaica's energy requirement.

The task force will look into the possibility of developing a system of coal supply at the lowest possible cost, with a special look being taken at the possibility of working out joint shipping arrangement with the bauxite companies.

It will also look into the possibility of securing long-term supplies of coal at predictable prices, examine existing coal supply proposals of international organizations, and look into the environmental aspect of the matter.

Assuming that all the indications are favourable, Mr. Manley said, the task force would be then be asked to consider what other aspects of the economy could benefit from conversion to coal.

The task force report is to be made available for public discussion.

NICARAGUA

HUMBERTO ORTEGA DISCUSSES SIGNIFICANCE OF SOMOZA'S DEATH

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 25 Sep 80 p 6

[Interview with Humberto Ortega, minister of defense and commander in chief of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS), by Richard Izarra; in Managua, date not given]

[Text] Special report (UNO MAS UNO and DIARIO DE CARACAS)--When the current defense minister and commander in chief of the EPS was 19 years old, he and three companions mounted an operation to execute Anastasio Somoza Debayle, an operation very similar to the one on 17 September in Paraguay, but with the vast difference that in 1966 the Sandinist Movement was weak and feeble.

Heading up the young commando unit, Humberto Ortega did not have too many weapons to choose from: some tacks to stop the car in which Somoza was riding, two pistols and several Molotov cocktails that they themselves had put together. The place: the Leon Highway. The dictator would take this route back to Managua.

The commando unit was not in luck. They were discovered and arrested. Ortega was beginning to make a name for himself in the student movement, and Somoza did not want to create too many waves. Moreover, this was nothing more than a "student itch," and they were not going to undermine his mighty empire. Thus, Somoza released Ortega. Little did the dictator suspect that 14 years later that tall, thin young man with the sparse mustache would be sitting in his comfortable armchair in Somoza's own government office, while in the southern part of the continent the dictator was being blown to bits by a blast apparently from an "RPG4" like the ones that the Vietnamese used to destroy Yankee tanks.

Sooner or Later

As if in some fable (except that the pages and drawings have been brought to life by the actions of hundreds of thousands of people), "the bad" have been cut down by "the good." Sooner or later the hand of justice does its work. And sure enough, our defense minister, Commander Humberto Ortega, is sitting in the same chair in the same office that Somoza had built.

It was there that Humberto Ortega and I talked about Somoza's death. Our entire talk transpired in the midst of that very special smile that comes to one's lips at moments of triumph. There could be no doubt: the military strategist of the Sandinist Revolution had dealt another victorious blow. His joy was visible through his uniform. He had accomplished, 14 years later, that which had so often kept him awake at night.

[Question] Commander, was this a Sandinist operation?

[Answer] We Sandinists are envious of this operation because we were not personally pulling the trigger on the weapons used against the tyrant. We envy its boldness and perfect execution. We feel fulfilled by it. In this sense, we Sandinists identify with the spirit, bravery and boldness of the group that performed it.

Whatever He Decides

[Question] Commander, what do you think the future holds for Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero, the son of the executed Somoza?

[Answer] His destiny depends on whatever he decides to do. If he chooses to do what his father or grandfather did, he will wind up like his father and grandfather.

[Question] In your opinion, commander, which of the two Somozas (Somoza Garcia and Somoza Debayle) promoted the most "evil" in Nicaragua?

[Answer] That's like asking which ocean is saltier: the Atlantic or the Pacific. I think that they are equally salty. We could say that the two Somozas, "Tacho senior" (Somoza Garcia) and the other Tacho (Somoza Debayle) are part of a single dictatorial distortion and aberration of a system that was born of the worst reactionary imperialism. The Somoza dictatorship was a monstrous child of an equally monstrous mother: Gringo intervention in Nicaragua. It was

this intervention that intensified the evil sentiments. But it was the Yankee Marines who taught the National Guard how to burn down ranches, how to toss children in the air and run them through with bayonets and how to cut off heads, arms and tongues. That was the school, the "West Point" for the Nicaraguan National Guard trained during the years of the intervention. That was what Somoza handed down to his sons, to his followers, who over time set up a dynasty, a clique. Thus it is not by chance that we have several thousand Somozist prisoners here, because all of them were trained in that school and put its teachings into practice.

[Question] Where were you when the elder Somoza was killed?

[Answer] I was just a small boy. "Tacho senior," as we called him, was executed in 1956. I was born in 1947, so I was 9 years old, but I remember the incident well, also the fear-tinged joy that my parents and our people felt in hailing this historic event. I would compare that moment with now, when we are celebrating the execution of the other tyrant without fear. It cannot fail to move you, especially when you have gone through a lengthy struggle.

First Reaction

[Question] What was your first reaction, commander, upon learning of his execution?

[Answer] What first came to my mind was a prose poem by our national poet, Ruben Dario, written in 1892 and entitled "Why."

It is perhaps one of Dario's most social, most rebellious, most political and most anti-imperialist poems. At one point he asserts that the oppressed will sooner or later overthrow tyrannies. He mentions how the statues of bandits will be smashed to bits, which happened here in Nicaragua: the statues of Somoza were smashed to bits. Ruben Dario spoke about that in those days. Dario described everything that is coming to pass now, everything that was to happen in this century. At one point the poem says: "...fire will illuminate the ruins..." (this is talking about when the people will rise up) and then "...the heavens will see with fearful joy the supreme and terrible revenge of drunken poverty..." Our people really did get drunk with joy. It was the enthusiasm of the poor people whom Somoza bequeathed us that rose up on 17 September as they expressed their instinctive feelings of grass roots vengeance. The vanguard, the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), does not encourage revenge but together with the people it experienced the relief of their vengeance in relation to what happened in Paraguay.

[Question] How many victims of Somoziism have there been, commander?

[Answer] We are not engaging in propaganda when we talk of 100,000 victims during the Somoza era. Last century and at the beginning of this century, Nicaragua had almost three times as many people as Costa Rica and Panama. Now, however, we have almost the same population. Why? Because of the frightful social conditions and the continual bloodletting that interventionist wars caused in our country. We know that tens of thousands of people were either killed, wounded, maimed or exiled.

[Question] As far as you yourself are concerned, commander, how did you feel when you learned of Somoza's death, inasmuch as you occupy his office and even use the same chair that he did?

[Answer] I didn't feel anything special just because I sit in the same armchair in the same office. Everything was destroyed here in Nicaragua, not only because of the war but also because of the Somozist corruption together with the 1972 earthquake. What was left was a very poor, very limited infrastructure. That is why we are here in these offices; I mean, we're not going to leave them unused because of romantic notions. I'm particularly annoyed at having to use this cave of sorts, because this bunker is just that: a cave. There are no windows; it's all closed up. In the future we are going to transfer it to the university and the Ministry of Culture. I did not want to work here, but as the months have gone by, I have forgotten that "the man used to be here..."

[Question] One last question, commander. Who do you think carried out the operation in Paraguay?

[Answer] It does not matter so much which group it was. What really matters is that a monster is no longer alive. They were patriots, they were valiant men, they were men of peace.

8743

CSO: 3010

NICARAGUA

JUNTA MEMBER RAMIREZ COMMENTS ON WORLD, REGIONAL ISSUES

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 27 Sep 80 pp 1,9

[Interview with Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Government Junta of National Reconstruction; date and place not given]

[Text] Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, a member of the Government Junta of National Reconstruction, described as extremely regrettable the war between Iran and Iraq, adding that a worsening of the conflict would be a real disaster for the Nicaraguan economy because it would immediately trigger a steep jump in oil prices.

In an interview with EL NUEVO DIARIO, Dr Ramirez Mercado expressed the hope that the conflict can soon be settled peacefully.

The Interview

The following is the interview with Dr Ramirez Mercado, in which he discusses a variety of issues:

[Question] Does the Government Junta have any statement to make on the war between Iran and Iraq?

[Answer] We are monitoring with great concern this war between two members of the nonaligned movement. It has caused us much grief that the war is between two countries seeking their own paths of development. The situation affects all nonaligned countries, and we hope that it can be settled peacefully right away.

[Question] Do you feel that the hand of imperialism could be involved?

[Answer] That is very difficult to tell at the moment. This is an extremely tense and conflict-ridden zone because they are fighting over the Straits of Hormuz, which are of major strategic importance since

the oil for the West passes through there. It is impossible to think that worldwide interests are not somehow involved in this war.

Repercussions Here

[Question] What repercussions would an intensification of the war have on Nicaragua?

[Answer] The destruction of the refineries would immediately trigger a shortage in world oil reserves. We are currently paying \$32.50 a barrel. If prices jump to \$50, for example, our economy would have a tough time handling that. It would be a disaster.

The Incident in Paraguay

[Question] What could you tell us about the Stroessner government's allegations that the Nicaraguan Government was involved in Somoza's execution?

[Answer] It was a major failure to Stroessner's dictatorship to see Somoza killed in the middle of the street in broad daylight without his police being able to do anything to prevent it.

Dictators boast that their countries are islands of peace, and such an incident had never before taken place in that country. It stands to reason that Stroessner should try to blame someone else, and that someone else is Nicaragua.

But the crazy lies of the Paraguayan police have been denied by the people whom they pointed to as participants in the attack, who were in Managua at the time of the incident. I think that his regime took this tack because it has been unable to bring its investigation to a close.

Regarding CELAM [Latin American Bishops Conference]

[Question] What could you tell us about Miguel Ernesto Vigil's report that CELAM is plotting against the Nicaraguan Revolution?

[Answer] CELAM is a political entity and, therefore, takes political stands. When Monsignor Lopez Trujillo says without grounds that "if Nicaragua were to become a Marxist-Leninist state, there would be problems for the Church," it is as if I were to say that if the Church reverts to the days of the Inquisition, it would be a problem for Christians.

The Whole Thing Is Made Up

That, of course, would be an equally subjective correct assertion and just as groundless. The reactionary papers here printed headlines like "CELAM sees serious problems in Nicaragua," but the whole thing is made up.

So then, as a politician, Mr Lopez Trujillo takes a stand opposed to the revolution, and therefore we have to respond to him politically, because we cannot assume that his stand is eminently religious.

He is coming to the defense of the Church in Nicaragua at a time when parishioners, Catholics and the hierarchy know very well that the Church is not under attack; on the contrary, we are striving to create the best climate for relations, and the Church is witness to this endeavor.

Work-Study

[Question] A local paper has begun a campaign against the work-study program. What comments do you have in this respect?

[Answer] They are looking at it from an anticommunist, anti-Sandinist and antirevolutionary perspective.

I think that they are talking from the darkness of caves, because the work-study combination was not invented by regimes with a Marxist-Leninist ideology. Under this concept, capitalist countries reached their highest level of development in the 19th century when they radically altered their Thomist concept of education, based on an eminently theoretical and ecclesiastical approach, and linked it to labor.

We cannot say that Truman was a communist because he set up the agricultural schools in which students worked hard and learned to respect the value of labor.

It is our hope that here in Nicaragua we do not have a rift between the peasant farmers and the intellectuals who attend school or university to get away from the working people and later exploit them without any sense of guilt.

The people who want to create this rift are the same ones who are now saying that the peasant farmers do not want to work, that they are loafers. We can see clearly that if the farmers were not working and if the workers were not operating the machines, we would not have 150,000 manzanas [1 manzana=1 3/4 acres] of cotton and 200,000 manzanas of corn growing, nor would we be on the verge of harvesting our coffee.

So then, the people who say that the peasant farmers are not working are the ones who have never stooped down to work in a furrow and who look with scorn on students who get their shoes dirty and get calluses on their hands from using machetes.

SOMOZISM

[Question] Did Somozism die with Somoza?

[Answer] We cannot say that Somozism died with the physical disappearance of Somoza, because it is a system, an attitude. There are Somozists inside and outside the country. There are some who did not used to be but who are now and are against the revolution because they want to preserve a system that the revolution did away with on 19 July.

We cannot say that it has disappeared because when the United States wanted to declare Somoza's civil death, the aim was to preserve Somozaism intact.

[Question] What do you have to say about Somoza Portocarrero apparently inheriting the leadership from him?

[Answer] Every counterrevolution has a head, some close friends and some followers. Somozism is the thousand-headed snake that we still have here: the people who oppose the revolution and lie to damage it, the people who want to bring back the past.

[Question] People are saying that now that Somoza is dead, you can no longer accuse anyone of being a Somozist, just a counterrevolutionary. What do have to say about this?

[Answer] The revolution does not invent, search out or go digging for descriptions. They are determined by people's attitudes. We could not describe as counterrevolutionaries the people who want the poor to have higher living standards, who are for education, health care centers, etc and who are willing to fight to the utmost consequences to achieve these things. But resorting to systematic lies against the revolution to oppose these changes is Somozism.

[Question] Do you think that Somozism has lost strengt with Somoza's death?

[Answer] I think that it is more important to ask how strong the revolution is because the stronger it is, the more organized it is and the more weapons it has, it will be able to turn back and crush any invasions or terrorist acts that Somozists come here to undertake, and the revolution has the strength to do this now.

Infiltrators

[Question] Cordova Rivas said recently that Somozists had infiltrated the Sandinist Movement. What about this?

[Answer] Well, a person who voted for Somoza because he was hungry or because he was afraid of losing his job is not a Somozist. Somozists are the people who still hold the attitudes that Somozism engendered and sheltered, who are haughty even though they work in government, who look scornfully on someone because he is poor and who rob from the Treasury. The revolution has to pursue these people to the death, and that is what we are doing. We currently have more than 50 cases before the regular courts of individuals who have stolen from the Treasury.

[Question] Cordova Rivas also says that a number of conservatives have been jailed on charges of being Somozist infiltrators, which creates problems for pluralism and, in particular, for his party.

[Answer] I would not go as far as he does. We have to qualify things a bit. Some people have abused their uniforms and government jobs, and the revolution has been implacable with them. Many of them are in jail; others have been fired, and others are before the courts.

There could be cases such as the ones that Dr Cordova Rivas is talking about, but they are isolated, not systematic cases. I think that the people who have been unjustly imprisoned should be released, but the people who are in jail for counterrevolutionary acts have to be held accountable, whether they are conservatives, liberals or whatever.

8743

CSO: 3010

NICARAGUA

VIOLETA CHAMORRO COMMENTS ON NEW PRESS LAW

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Sep 80 pp 1, 12

[Interview with Mrs Violeta de Chamorro, former member of the Government Junta, at the A. C. Sandino Airport; date not given]

[Text] Mrs Violeta de Chamorro left Sunday for Houston, in the United States, for reasons of health. Since she broke her right foot some 6 months ago, Mrs Chamorro has been suffering from constant pain in her foot.

Before leaving for the United States, Mrs Chamorro was approached at the A. C. Sandino Airport by a LA PRENSA reporter to whom she granted an interview concerning the three new decrees issued by the Government Junta which, according to a local newspaper, are "to guarantee freedom of expression."

[Question] Mrs Chamorro: What is your opinion of the three new decrees issued by the JGRN [National Reconstruction Government Junta] which, according to a local newspaper, "guarantee the freedom of expression?"

[Answer] Well, I understand freedom of expression to mean my husband's struggle. During the 27 years I spent with him, I was able to see that he defended everybody, rich and poor, guerrillas, journalists and peasants against the Somoza dictatorship. He always fought for the broadest freedom of expression.

One would have to understand these "little things" that have been promulgated today; I do not understand how they guarantee freedom of expression and I believe that they should be consistent. If there are going to be restrictive laws, they should be applied to all the means of communication.

All the means of communication have a guiding function, including that of guiding the government as to where its faults lie, helping in that way to improve government to the benefit of all Nicaragua.

Pedro, my husband, fought through LA PRENSA so that our people could free themselves from the Somoza dictatorship and in great measure contributed to that liberation with his life and with his death.

Freedom of expression is basic to the existence of all other freedoms. Before, the IAPA was good because it struggled to defend freedom of the press and defended jailed journalists. I cannot understand why now some of the journalists who benefited from that great labor of the IAPA, attack it with hatred.

REVOLUTION ANALYZED FROM MARXIST PERSPECTIVE

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 30 Aug 80 p 2

[Article by Eddy Matute Ruiz: "A Marxist Analysis of the Sandinist Revolution"]

[Text] This article has the express objective of viewing the Sandinist government from a Marxist methodological perspective. In so doing we scrupulously respect the ideological premises which, translated into Lenin's diverse writings and the official documentation of the Marxist Unification Labor Party (POUM) drawn up by its secretary Andres Nin during the Spanish Civil War, are the basis of that doctrine and applicable to the Nicaraguan case.

This analytical approach applied to the Nicaraguan reality tells us that the People's Sandinist Revolution, from the point of view of the methods of taking power and the demands expressed in the government program, acquires the classic form of the proletarian revolution started in the Soviet Union in 1917, adopting its own peculiar nuances due to the local structure of its social classes and of the insurrection, in a specific geopolitical situation which determines the alliances and the rhythm of social change.

To examine the character of the Nicaraguan Government as expressed in its social action programs and alliances, we will use as historic reference Lenin's 1905 theses, a series of considerations which he developed when the labor masses in Czarist Russia were undertaking their first historical attempt to attack the citadel of power. In that situation, Lenin was saying that the government which would eventually be established in Russia would be a revolutionary democratic government of workers and peasants. In essence that meant that the triumphant proletariat together with the peasants would have to develop democratic changes, such as the agrarian reform and the nationalization of the banks. This implied, in Lenin's judgement, the participation of some employers in the government.

However, the defeat of the proletariat in 1905 and its subsequent disappearance from the political scene offered the Czarist autocracy the possibility of maintaining the bourgeoisie relatively unified, until this unity was severely damaged by the proletariat offensive at the end of 1916. This offensive, in its unstoppable advance, demonstrated that the correlation of forces between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat had gone through a historic turning point, wherein it was possible to observe that the democratic employers did not intend

or have the strength to support the path of change, and had to confront workers and peasants who in 1917, led by the Bolshevik Party, ousted them from power by means of an insurrection.

This armed event raised the Bolshevik Party to the position of leader of all society, with the resulting acute and radical polarity between the social classes as a consequence of the taking of power and the difficulties created in the administration of this process. This compelled the Bolsheviks to establish a sort of proletarian dictatorship which meant the concentration of political power in the hands of the party, a concentration of power which did not imply the total expropriation of the bourgeoisie.

This expropriation increased when the Russian employers abandoned their factories, businesses and land holdings, taking for granted that the counterrevolutionary armies would restore the hegemony of capital. However, the Red Army led by Trotsky crushed the counterrevolution with the harshness typical of the Bolsheviks, closing off for a long time the process of restoring capital.

The above statements lead us to draw the main political conclusions.

The concentration of political and economic power carried out by the Bolshevik Party in Russia was not a consequence of its program but rather of the situation provoked by reactionary forces, which made them become harsher. In other words, in the field of Marxism, it is the specific situation that determines the form of government.

The above implies that each revolution has a form of government which reflects the peculiarities of its historical and political context.

An examination of the Nicaraguan revolution on the basis of the processes mentioned above, which are a good example of the social history of the class struggle, tells us that the Nicaraguan process in this stage can be interpreted according to Lenin's 1905 methodology; obviously in doing so we keep in mind the historical and time differences.

This analysis shows that in Nicaragua there is a democratic government of workers and peasants, which having hegemony over the economy and politics, does not try to control all the social life of the nation, promoting in practice a government of mixed economy and pluralist politics, a fact which is reflected in the composition of the Council of State.

That is to say that Sandinism is trying to develop a program of deep social changes without giving up a vast democratic alliance, an objective reflected in the tendencies of those who form the National Patriotic Front.

However, this pluralist objective of Sandinism is being seriously affected by the terrorist offensive unleashed during the last week of July by a small number who are resisting social change, a fact which, at this level in the analysis, suggests a basic question.

To answer this question in the Nicaraguan case, we must consider two of the aspects present in the Marxist concept of proletarian dictatorship.

a) The main aspect of the concept analyzed tells us that the concept of proletarian dictatorship refers to the vanguard's hegemony over the economy, a scheme which, by affecting the distribution of surpluses, facilitates leadership in political conflicts.

b) Political conflicts, in turn, can acquire two forms: authoritarian and democratic. These forms of government are not defined beforehand by the vanguard but take form according to the activity of counterrevolutionary forces, which will be determining by their acts the social and political answer of the vanguard.

9341

CSO: 3010

NICARAGUA

ANDEN EXTOLS TEACHERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN LITERACY CAMPAIGN

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 3 Sep 80 p 7

[Article by Trinidad Vasquez]

[Excerpts] The Nicaraguan teachers who participated in the glorious literacy campaign, especially those who worked in the rural areas and the red-black brigades which were sent to the most remote areas of the country, now deserve to be called with dignity teachers and it was they who restored the reputation of the national teaching profession in this new revolutionary age.

And this has been recognized by ANDEN [National Association of Nicaraguan Educators] in an extensive communique which in one of its most outstanding parts says: "Our brothers the teachers were subjected this time to their hardest trial and restored with their presence in the literacy campaign the dignity of the teaching profession, vilified by the Somoza regime and rescued by our teaching organization wisely led by the vanguard theory, which is the Sandinist theory."

For that reason Professor Emilio Caldera, ANDEN acting president, is now demanding greater participation by the teachers in the drafting of the new educational plans and programs, since they are the authorized voice in the field of education. He is also asking that the Sandinist Youth be taken into account.

Up to now, the teachers have participated in commissions as observers in the discussion of transitional plans and programs. Almost 20,000 elementary and secondary school teachers took part in the National Literacy Crusade.

9341
CSO: 3010

INTERVIEW WITH PCU SECRETARY GENERAL RODNEY ARISMENDI

Rome L'UNITA in Italian 19 Sep 80 p 15

[Interview with Rodney Arismendi by Mario Ronchi, in Rome date not given]

[Text] We met with Comrade Rodney Arismendi, the secretary general of the Communist Party of Uruguay, who is at present in Rome, and we asked him to give us some idea about the most recent developments in the situation of his country, which has been oppressed for 7 years (June 1973) by a harsh fascist military dictatorship and on the Latin American subcontinent. What is happening is the small republic of the "Southern Cone?" Have new prospects and new possibilities for struggle opened up?

[Answer] "Yes," Arismendi answered. "The regime, in its attempt to break out of the isolation in which it had come to find itself on the international level and to face in some way its internal opposition, has announced for next November a 'constitutional referendum.' It is an operation 'a la Pinochet,' a 'trick through which the military would like to "institutionalize" their dictatorship and at the same time give themselves a patina of 'legitimacy' and make themselves a little more 'presentable.' This 'referendum' on a drastically authoritarian constitution is to be the first stage in the so-called 'political chronogram' devised by the leaders of the coup; the second stage is to unfold in 1981, with the direct election of a sole candidate for the presidency of the republic, chosen by the military themselves.

"The political seriousness of such a maneuver, its raw instrumental character," emphasized the secretary of the Uruguayan PC, "are very obvious. The intention is to force the people--voting, among other things, would be obligatory, with heavy sanctions for those who abstain--to swallow the 'status quo,' fascism. The coup leaders' plan, however, is encountering strong resistance, being rejected not only by the Broad Front (the coalition presided over by General Liber Seregni, who is still held in a prison camp, and in which all the democratic and progressive forces in Uruguay participate: from the PC to the Socialist Party, to numerous personalities

in political and cultural life, to the DC and by the National Convention of Workers (this one also outlawed), but also by the two 'traditional' parties: the White (or National) Party and the Colored one."

The opposition today brings together even the solid sectors of the middle class--and this is explained, among other things, by the inability demonstrated by the regime to deal with the economic crisis, which is ruining medium-sized and small industries and craft activities which once flourished--. a good number of students and intellectuals, of the clergy itself and it is tending to broaden."

Arisemendi recalled, in particular, the "nature," in so many ways "new," of the constitution, in New York, last April, at the headquarters of the United Nations, of the Group for Democratic Convergence of Uruguay, an organization formed by acknowledged representatives of the three main political currents (the White party, the Colored party and the Frente Amplio) and which represents, before the government and international public opinion, the united will of antifascism. "Democratic convergence is the expression of very broad forces, it has the support of various Latin American countries (such as Mexico, Cuba, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica), of COPAL (which groups all the Latin American democratic parties) and, also, of American political and parliamentary personalities of democratic orientation. Precisely because its constitution has marked an important step forward in the common struggle against dictatorship, reinforcing the unity of the antifascist components in their respective autonomy and giving thus a new impetus also to the opposition movement within the country, the military have reacted hysterically and that is by intensifying repression, multiplying the arrests (recently, the 77-year old socialist leader, Comrade Cardoso, was even imprisoned), worsening the conditions of the thousands of political prisoners."

The situation is, therefore, changing. The difficulties are certainly enormous: but the possibilities for making the reactionary plan of the coup leaders fail, by imposing the restoration of political and union freedoms and of civil rights, general amnesty for all the prisoners and for those exiled (among whom is Comrade Arisemendi himself, expelled from his country in 1974, after a year of prison), the beginning of a process of free popular participation in the political and social life of the country, does not appear unrealistic or "remote" today.

[Question] Up to what point, therefore, can the recent, serious events which have occurred on the Latin American subcontinent influence Uruguay?

[Answer] "From the 'coup' carried out in 1973 (first in my country, then in Chile," affirmed Arisemendi, "there have begun, even though with difficulty and contradictions new processes of great political importance in

Latin America. We are thinking of the slow but progressive crumbling of the dictatorship in Brazil and of the success obtained last June by Herman Siles Zuazo in Bolivia, also of the victorious armed revolutionary struggle of the Sandinista and of the patriots in Nicaragua.

The democratic trends and forces have struggled and they have become reinforced on the whole. Certainly, the situations are different from country to country, each of which has its own national specific needs; and different, therefore, are the ways which the progressive and revolutionary movements can take. But the renewal has gone forward."

"Naturally," adds Arismendi, "these are not pointless processes. The 'coup' by the military in Bolivia, after the victory of Siles Zuazo (whom the Uruguayan regime has not actively supported by chance) represents, in particular, a threat, a danger for the entire subcontinent. The attempt to consolidate by every means the dictatorship of the 'Southern Cone' (Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay) and to implant others (as is happening right now in Bolivia) is in fact directed against every democratic prospect of development, of transformation and it inserts itself, by exploiting them, into the difficulties which today the line of detente on the international level is encountering. The fascist military want to present themselves as the main force of support for U.S. imperialism in Latin America and on a world scale. Because of this, today more than ever, a concrete, incisive international solidarity with the struggle of our people is necessary."

Tomorrow, Demonstration in Rome

Rome--Through the initiative of the Group in Italy of the Communist Party of Uruguay, there will be held tomorrow at the Central Theater (Via Celsa 6) of Rome, a celebratory demonstration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the PCU. Comrades Rodney Arismendi, the secretary of the Uruguayan PC and Gian Carlo Pajetta, of the PCI leadership, will speak. Comrade Maurizio Ferrara, regional secretary of the PCI, will preside.

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CSO: 3104

GUERRILLAS THREATEN EASTERN REGION FARMERS

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 4 Sep 80 p D-19

[Text] "The growing lack of safety in rural areas is seriously threatening the property and life of the agriculture and livestock farmers," the president of the National Federation of Cattlemen warned yesterday on announcing that this subject will be given priority consideration by the administrative council that the organization is convoking on 16 September.

Rafael Marcial Garmendia stated that the cattlemen's associations have been reporting to the appropriate authorities and to the federation itself a series of events that disturb them because they threaten food production for the Venezuelan population.

Cattlemen and leaders of several of the country's regions frequently report lack of safety, robbery and fear in the eastern farms, where groups of guerrillas operate constantly, despoiling and threatening the cattlemen's lives and hindering free access to their work locations and the continuation of their agricultural and livestock labors.

Garmendia said that the stealing of cattle has spread throughout the country and in some regions it has become serious, as in Portuguesa, where there have been million-dollar robberies.

Garmendia emphasized that the proliferation of meat sales along highways is highly disturbing because this not only facilitates selling animals of doubtful origin but threatens the people's health, since most of these places do not maintain minimal sanitary requirements.

More than 500 delegates from the 130 affiliated associations will attend the National Administrative Council of Federation Cattlemen, according to Garmendia.

"We also hope that by 16 September we will have been received by the minister of interior, whom we have asked for a hearing to explain to him the details of the insecurity in the countryside, which is placing restrictions on agriculture and livestock production," he said.

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CSO: 3010

BRIEFS

RED FLAG MEMBERS SOUGHT--Fourteen alleged guerrillas accused of being part of a subversive cell that is reportedly operating in the mountains of Carabobo, and who belong to the Red Flag group and to the Americo Silva Front, are being energetically sought in the region by the DISIP (Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services) and the PTJ (Judicial Technical Police) forces, according to information obtained from completely reliable sources. The DISIP, say the sources, has distributed among state security entities a poster with the photographs of the 14 persons sought, with the warning that they are "dangerous subjects armed with very powerful weapons; thus full caution must be exercised in capturing them." The list of persons sought is the following: Gabriel Puerta Aponte, Andres Villarreal Baris, Jovito Faustino Lugo, Roberto Rincon Cabrera, Jose Luis Dominguez, Emperatriz Guzman, Andres Cova Mata, Jose Asdrubal Cordero, Francisco Javier Jimenez, Oscar Cedeno, Manual Gonzalez Mayer, Jesus Ramon Rodriguez, Fernando Valdivieso and Daniel Hernandez Lopez. [Text] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 5 Sep 80 p D-24] 9545

ALLEGED GUERRILLA CONTACT ARRESTED--Casanay, 27 Aug--The alleged guerrilla contact arrested on his ranch in La Pena, near the site of the last skirmish between the government and guerrilla forces, is a Social Christian Party [COPEI] member and former policeman. The army arrested him after surprising him up a high tree, while soldiers were tracking through the outskirts of Santa Maria de Cariaco. The 60-year-old man's name is Francisco Vicente Jimenez. His relatives stated they are "sure he is not a guerrilla contact. He is a sick man, and we fear for his health. He was much loved on the docks of Cariaco and has always been in contact with the police there." Jimenez was a policeman in Cumana and a COPEI member, according to a card provided by his relatives. A neighbor who witnessed the arrest said Jimenez had gone out with a bucket full of fish heads for his dogs. He then climbed a tree to throw out some of the fish heads, when the dogs started to bark. Immediately thereafter the soldiers arrived. From that very moment Jimenez has been missing. His relatives want to know his whereabouts. [Text] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 28 Aug 80 Sec 2 p 30] 9545

PCV POLITICAL BUREAU ELECTED--The second plenary meeting of the Central Committee, which met on Friday, 22 August, elected the new Political Bureau consisting of 11 members and 5 alternates and approved in their posts the directors of TRIBUNA

POPULAR. The members of the Political Bureau are Comrades Gustavo Machado, president; Jesus Faria, general secretary; Alonso Ojeda Olachea, Pedro Ortega Diaz, Radames Larrazabal, Rafael Jose Cortes, Eduardo Gallegos Mancera, Hector Mujica, Noel Sirit, Lino Perez Loyo and Jorge Santana, members; Trino Melean, Luis Ciano, Silvino Varela, Pedro Gutierrez and Ali Morales, alternate members. At the head of TRIBUNA POPULAR will be Comrades Gustavo Machado, director, and Americo Diaz Nunez, editor in chief. The plenary meeting also heard a report on the Polish situation and another on the danger of China's warlike attitude. The Central Committee of the PCV (Communist Party of Venezuela) unanimously approved a statement of support for the striking workers in the textile industry, the text of which is being published in this edition. [Text] [Caracas TRIBUNA POPULAR in Spanish 29 Aug-4 Sep 80 p 11] 9545

MARAVEN PROPANE LINE--Maracaibo, 11 Sep--The MARAVEN operating company is currently building a propane line from Puerto Miranda to the Zulia Petrochemical Complex that will facilitate the delivery of propane to the El Tablazo olefin plant. An authorized spokesman for the PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc] subsidiary said the project calls for the installation of 5 kilometers of 4-inch pipeline, with metering and control facilities. "This propane line," the spokesman said, "will carry all the production received from the La Paz and Mara plants, which ranges between 1,500 and 2,000 barrels a day." As is known, the El Tablazo operating installations are the site of CORPOVEN's LPG plant, which processes and supplies natural gas as a raw material to the PEQUIVEN [Petrochemical Company of Venezuela] olefin plant, the backbone of the El Tablazo Petrochemical Complex, but since demand exceeds CORPOVEN's supply, the MARAVEN operating company is building this project that will help reduce propane transportation costs. The propane is currently being transported in ships. [Text] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 14 Sep 80 p D-7] 9238

ANZOATEGUI GAS PRODUCTION--Caracas, 5 Sep (VENPRES)--With the construction of the El Toco and Santa Rosa II gas plants in the state of Anzoategui, MENEVEN will be able to produce an additional 155 million cubic feet of gas a day. The PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc] subsidiary revealed that the El Toco plant will be equipped with three, 2,600-hp each, reciprocating compressors, with a total processing capacity of 75 million cubic feet of gas a day. The Santa Rosa II plant will have three, 4,500-hp each, compressors that will handle 80 million cubic feet of gas a day. Both plants are a part of the Aragua-Norte project in its second phase, which includes dehydration systems installed in the El Tono and Santa Rosa areas and the San Joaquin metering station. According to information released by MENEVEN, the El Toco gas plant will be in operation by the second half of 1981, and the Santa Rosa II plant by the first quarter of 1982. The additional 155 million cubic feet of gas a day to be produced by these two plants will all be supplied to CORPOVEN for industrial and household uses. [Text] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 6 Sep 80 p D-6] 9238

MARAVEN PRODUCTION UP--Maracaibo, 14 Sep--The project being implemented by the operating company MARAVEN, replacing the compressors in the La Paz field to increase production in the area, is in its final phase. The installation of the four turbocompressor units, an authorized spokesman of that company said, comes to 38 million bolivars. Two turbocompressors will compress the gas that goes directly to the field to higher pressures to obtain an estimated production increase of some 5,000 barrels a day of oil and an estimated increase of 10 million cubic feet of gas a day. The other two units are fundamentally for the purpose of compressing the gas to be injected into the field. This project was designed in September 1977, under the Engineering and Development Coordination unit of the Production Operations Division, and construction started in September 1979. At the same time, a number of additional projects have been completed in the La Paz field, such as the installation of air compressors, the increase of electric power generation by the plant, and the construction of 15 miles of pipeline. The compressor was procured from the American firm Elliot and the turbine from the British firm Rouston; the installation was done entirely by Venezuelan personnel. Currently, the stabilizing system of the installed units is being checked out in full detail, and the final acceptance test is scheduled for the current month of September. The said test will be attended by personnel from the American and British factories and personnel of the MARAVEN Instrumentation and Equipment unit. [Text] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 15 Sep 80 p D-12] 9238

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